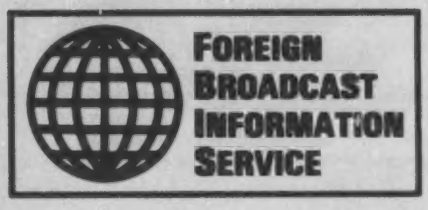

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-050
Tuesday
15 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-050 *15 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Holds Meeting With Israeli Delegation *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Envoy Ross Meets With 'Arafat in Tunis *[MENA]* 1
Ross, 'Arafat Meet; Ross Comments *[MENA]* 1
'Arafat Meets Norwegian Minister on Peace Process *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Arafat Sends Written Message to Yeltsin *[Algiers VOP]* 1
'Arafat Pledges Revolution 'Until Victory' *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Al-Husayni Views Resuming Peace Negotiations *[Jerusalem International]* 2
Al-Husayni To Protest French Agreements With Israel *[DAVAR 11 Mar]* 2
Qaddumi Urges Safety Guarantees for Palestinians *[Vienna DER STANDARD 14 Mar]* 3
'Urayqat: Israeli Steps Not on 'Required Levels' *[Cairo International]* 3
UN Envoy Interviewed on Hebron Resolution *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
U.S. Stance in Security Council Shows 'Bias' *[AL-TALI'AH 10 Mar]* 6
Hamas Issues 'Veiled Warning' on Revenge *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
'About 8,000' Attend Hamas Rally in Strip *[Jerusalem TV]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual Addresses Nation on Advent of 'Id al-Fitr *[Algiers TV]* 7
FIS Spokesman Comments on Recent Jailbreak, Clashes *[AFP]* 7

Egypt

'Immediate Return' to Negotiations Said 'Necessary' *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Arabs Urged To Stand by 'Arafat in Peace Talks *[AL-AHRAM 6 Mar]* 8
Editorial on Mubarak, New International Order *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Aswan-Cairo Train Fired Upon; Passengers Unharmed *[MENA]* 9

Libya

Commentary Criticizes U.S.Call for More Sanctions *[JANA]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties With Iran *[IRNA]* 12
Interior Minister Says Story of Spy in Iraq 'Fabricated' *[AL-WATAN 7 Mar]* 12
Officials Deny 'Abnormal Diseases' Surfaced After War *[AL-WATAN 7 Mar]* 12

IRAQ

Iranian Forces Reportedly Fire on Shawrah Plain *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 14
Car Bomb Reportedly Injures 2 Swedish Reporters *[AFP]* 14
Columnist Speculates on Benefits of Visit by Pope *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 9 Mar]* 14
Columnist Urges 'Blood Revenge' for Hebron Massacre *[AL-THAWRAH 3 Mar]* 15
Columnist on Mubarak's Role in Gulf War *[AL-THAWRAH 3 Mar]* 15

ISRAEL

Rabin 'Not Disappointed' With Failure of Tunis Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Peres Interviewed on Status of Talks With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Officials Deny Knowledge of Date for Resuming Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Gaza PLO Leaders Meet With Labor Members *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Labor, SHAS Parties Initial Coalition Agreement *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
No-Confidence Motions by Opposition Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
U.S. Reaction to Kakh Ban Seen as 'Lukewarm' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Update on Situation in Arrests of Kakh Extremists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
More Israeli Arabs Permitted To Visit Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
One 'Terrorist' Killed; One Wounded in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Impact of Hebron Massacre on Society Viewed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Feb]* 22

JORDAN

Minister Denies Plans To Reshuffle Cabinet *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Mar]* 24
Companies Aim To Restore Gulf Market Share *[AFP]* 24
New Coalition To Combat Anti-Islamic 'Designs' *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Mar]* 24
IAF Leader Denies Link to al-Karak Weapons Cache *[AKHIR KHABAR 12-13 Mar]* 25
Russian, French Initiatives for Peace Viewed *[AL-ASWAQ 12 Mar]* 25
Paper Examines U.S., Russian Stances on Hebron *[AL-RA'Y 12 Mar]* 25
Paper Attacks 'Arbitrary' U.S. Policies at UN *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 12 Mar]* 26

LEBANON

Lebanese Forces' Ja'ja' on Security Situation *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Mar]* 27
Former Prime Minister Interviewed on Politics 27
Analyzes Regional Events *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Mar]* 27
Assesses Country's Situation *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Mar]* 29
Vatican Envoy: Church Bomb To Protest Israel Ties *[RFL]* 29
Aborted Border Raid To Avenge Hebron Killings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

SYRIA

Papers Examine al-Asad Speech to 1948 Palestinians *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Security Council Urged To Assume Responsibilities *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Paper Urges Continuing Arab Boycott of Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 32
'Complete' Peace for 'Comprehensive' Withdrawal Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 33
Column Says U.S. To 'Confront' Israel To Save Peace *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Feb]* 34
Hebron Massacre Continues To Threaten Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Column Criticizes Strobe Talbott's Stand on Israel *[TISHRIN 1 Mar]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

India

Minister Urges Pakistan To Keep 'Open Mind' on Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 36
G-15 Summit Scheduled for 28-30 Mar *[Diplomatic Information Service]* 36
Commentary Condemns Pakistani Diplomacy on Kashmir *[Delhi International]* 36
'Top' Kashmiri Muslim Militant Arrested *[AFP]* 37
'Foreign Mercenaries' Reportedly Killed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 37

Iran

Paper Criticizes Saudi Stance on Hebron Incident *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 2 Mar]* 38
INRC: Regime Strikes Kurds in North Iraq *[AFP]* 38
U.S. Policy of 'Dual Containment' Examined *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Mar]* 39
Velayati on Peaceful Resolution to Gulf Islands *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Commentary Views Rabin's Visit to U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Uzbekistan To Open Embassy in Tehran in Apr *[IRNA]* 40
Minister on Russia's 'Decisive Role' in Balkans *[IRNA]* 40
Commentary on Changing Russian Role in Tajikistan *[SALAM 8 Mar]* 41
Daily Views Outcome of Kazakh Elections *[IRNA]* 41
Tehran's Intervention on Kashmir Issue Criticized *[AFP]* 42
Majles, Guardian Council Amend Budget *[IRNA]* 42
Budget Approved *[IRNA]* 42
Nateq-Nuri Holds News Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Comments on U.S., Egypt *[Tehran Radio]* 43
New Governor General Presented for Ilam Province *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Abadan Airport Resumes Flights To Dubayy *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Official Gives Statistics on Steel Exports *[IRNA]* 43
Esfahan-Yazd Gas Pipeline Project Completed *[Tehran TV]* 44

Pakistan

Leghari Applauds 'Internationalizing' Kashmir Issue *[Islamabad International]* 44
Official Refutes Indian Claims on Kasmir Resolution *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Minister Comments on Indian Statement, Opposition *[Islamabad TV]* 44
Editorial Criticizes Suspension of U.S. Aid *[JANG 13 Mar]* 45
Editorial Claims Nation 'Retains Diplomatic Initiative' *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 11 Mar]* 45
Withdrawal of Kashmir Rights Resolution Criticized *[KHABRAIN 11 Mar]* 46

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Holds Meeting With Israeli Delegation

NC1403185894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met again tonight with the Israeli delegation led by Jacques Neriya, the Israeli prime minister's adviser, who arrived here earlier today.

This morning the Israeli delegation met with 'Arafat and held intensive talks with him. Yuri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and General 'Uzi Dayan, head of planning in the Defense Ministry, took part in the talks as well as PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Abu-Aia' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the PLO's Economic Department; and Akram Haniyah, 'Arafat's adviser on the occupied territories affairs.

Following this meeting, the Israeli delegation telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and briefed him on the results of the talks with 'Arafat.

The Israeli delegation arrived in Tunisia last night aboard a private Israeli plane but the Tunisian authorities refused to let it land. The delegation then returned to Rome where it boarded the plane that carried Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the Middle East peace process, from Rome to Tunis.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Envoy Ross Meets With 'Arafat in Tunis

NC1403152894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator on the Middle East peace process, held a three-hour meeting in the presence of a number of Palestinian leaders. After the meeting, Ross said that the talks were useful and good and that he will meet with 'Arafat again this evening. Asked if the Palestinians will go to Washington to negotiate with the Israelis, Ross said that this issue has not yet been decided but consultations will be continued.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Political Department, took part in the meeting and said that the talks with Ross were very useful and were characterized by frankness. He noted that the talks dealt with the details of the situation in the occupied territories and the need to provide security requirements for the Palestinian people so that political negotiations can be resumed. He said that the talks with Ross will resume this evening to continue discussion on the points that were not resolved during the meeting.

Members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations declined to make any statements on the resolved issues or the points of disagreement. There are indications that during the meeting Ross failed to obtain 'Arafat's agreement to declare the PLO's return to the negotiating table with the Israelis and the resumption of the talks, which is the condition that the United States set on voting for the resolution submitted to the Security Council on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Ross, 'Arafat Meet; Ross Comments

NC1403201494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1946 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the Middle East peace process, held a closed meeting this evening. After the meeting, which lasted about 75 minutes, Ross said they discussed the PLO's commitment to resuming the peace negotiations and its commitment to the Declaration of Principles. He said they also discussed a number of topics, including Palestinian concerns about the situation in the occupied territories and commitments related to the peace process. Ross said that the most important thing is to finish these negotiations and start implementing the Declaration of Principles. What concerns us, he said, is to see a change in the situation on the ground, new realities in the region, and the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

Before meeting with 'Arafat, Ross met with the Israeli delegation led by Jacques Neriya, the Israeli prime minister's adviser, who arrived in Tunis today.

'Arafat Meets Norwegian Minister on Peace Process

LD1403174994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President 'Arafat also held talks today in Tunis with the Norwegian deputy foreign affairs minister, who is also working for the resumption of these talks. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Written Message to Yeltsin

LD1403180594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Brother President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday sent a written message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in reply to his important political message conveyed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to brother President Abu 'Ammar the day before yesterday in Tunis.

In his message brother President Abu 'Ammar expressed his great satisfaction at the high level of cordiality and sincerity in the current dialogue between the PLO and friendly Russia, which confirms the standing and development of the relations of friendship, cooperation, and consultation between the Palestinian and Russian peoples.

Brother President Abu 'Ammar valued President Yeltsin's eagerness for the peace process and negotiations to continue, the important steps taken by President Yeltsin and the Russian Government to prevent the escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories, and also Russian efforts in the UN Security Council in getting issued an effective resolution that would fulfill the Palestinians' just demands.

In his message brother Abu 'Ammar also expressed his confidence that friendly Russia, as a co-sponsor of the peace conference, would continue to make efforts to ensure the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement.

'Arafat Pledges Revolution 'Until Victory'

LD1403181394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Yesterday morning brother President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visited the martyrs' cemetery in Tunis accompanied by members of the Palestinian leadership and revolutionary cadres.

After the brother president and those attending had recited Surah al-Fatihah [opening verses of the Koran] for the souls of the innocent martyrs, brother President Abu 'Ammar gave an address in which he stressed that the waterfall of Palestinian blood would not halt for one moment until the Palestinian flag and the flag of the Arab nation were raised over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

Brother President Abu 'Ammar made a pledge to all the martyrs that the revolution, on whose long and difficult road they had fallen, would continue, however great and long the sacrifices and however much the difficulties increased, through the determination and will of our people until victory and as far as Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni Views Resuming Peace Negotiations

JN1403195394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Fatah leader in the occupied territories and Palestinian negotiator, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: The Kakh and Kahana Hay movements have been outlawed. How does the Palestinian side view the [Israeli] Government's decision in this regard?

[Al-Husayni] First, I believe this decision came too late. It was unnecessary to commit the [Hebron] massacre in order to make such a decision. In any case, to make such a decision—no matter how late—is better than not to make any decision. However, what is more important than making this decision is implementing it, and figuring out how to do it. Will this actually be a battle against all these settlers who are opposed to the peace process and the idea of peace, or will its implementation be confined to those whose membership in Kakh is confirmed?

[Mu'addi] What can be done immediately to ease the tension prevailing in the Palestinian streets in the wake of this incident?

[Al-Husayni] First, I believe that the settlers residing in Hebron should be evacuated. In addition, arrangements should be made to protect the Palestinian people's security. Such arrangements should include the issue of arming the settlers everywhere. We believe that these settlers should be disarmed, and that the army, and not the settlers, should maintain security, especially since many of these settlers engaged in settlement activities from the very beginning in order to achieve a single objective; namely, to foil this political process.

We also believe that the file of settlements should be opened at the negotiating table because this directly concerns the Palestinian people's security. This issue should thus be discussed. Discussions should not be confined to the Israeli people's security, as was the case in the past.

[Mu'addi] Do you believe that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations may resume next week in light of the intensive consultations and contacts in Tunis, Washington, and Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, it depends on the practices on the ground in terms of evacuating the settlers and releasing the Palestinian detainees. All these issues, together, can pave the way for the resumption of negotiations. I believe it is almost impossible to resume negotiations without making any kind of implementation on the ground.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Thank you very much, and many happy returns ['Id greetings].

[Al-Husayni] Same to you.

Al-Husayni To Protest French Agreements With Israel

TA1103123194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] In a meeting yesterday with French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, Faysal al-Husayni and other Palestinian figures in the territories conveyed their annoyance over the security agreements signed between France and Israel.

The Palestinians said this is not the right time to sign cooperation agreements with Israel on security and military issues. According to them, such agreements, coming in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, encourage Israel to perpetuate its policy vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

In a news conference with French journalists, Leotard said such an issue did not come up in his meeting with the Palestinians.

Referring to French assistance, the Palestinians stressed the need for political over any other kind of aid. They asked France to try to bring about a change in the Israeli position with regard to the settlers and the settlements so that a small number of settlements may be removed already at this stage.

Replying to the Palestinians' request that France support the notion of international protection in the territories, Leotard said that if Israel and the Palestinians reached an agreement to this effect, France would agree to participate in such a force.

At the news conference, Leotard said that France would agree to an international presence but not to an international force.

The French minister expressed willingness to help train personnel for the Palestinian police force.

Qaddumi Urges Safety Guarantees for Palestinians

AU1403114194 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 14 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with PLO "Foreign Minister" Faruq Qaddumi by Brigitte Voykowitsch in Tunis; date not given: "First a UN Resolution, Then Negotiations"]

[Text] "The conference would have to precisely analyze the reasons that the process has stalled and set down how things are going to proceed," Qaddumi says. "We are just waiting for the Russians to specify their proposal [on a second Middle East conference in Madrid].

[Voykowitsch] Did Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev give any more specific information about that during his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat on Friday evening [11 March].

[Qaddumi] No. He wanted to make the Palestinians agree to a resumption of the negotiations with Israel. Our answer was: First, the two co-sponsors of the peace process must make sure that a UN resolution is adopted and that the Palestinians are granted protection. The United States and Russia must come to an agreement on the guarantees they want to give to the Palestinians that events like the massacre of Hebron will not happen again. First, protective measures must be implemented. Then we can resume negotiations.

[Voykowitsch] You have been extremely critical of the Gaza-Jericho agreement right from the beginning. What is the document still worth today?

[Qaddumi] I have always been skeptical whether the Israelis consider their signature worth anything. I expected they would keep finding new justifications to delay the implementation of the agreement. We cannot continue with this farce. The Israelis have to withdraw quickly from Gaza and Jericho—and Jericho covers 345 square kilometers. If this does not happen, the agreement is just a piece of paper that does not commit anybody to anything.

[Voykowitsch] How strong are the voices in the occupied territories, which demand a resumption of the armed struggle?

[Qaddumi] We have never given up our resistance, and it will continue as long as Israeli soldiers are on our territory. The intifadah is a democratic resistance and it has been supported by the large majority of the international community. It is a legal means of self-defense.

[Voykowitsch] How much terrain has the PLO lost to Hamas?

[Qaddumi] The problem is not one between the PLO and Hamas. We both pursue the same struggle—we are defending ourselves. But we have different tactics. Our problem consists of the Israelis. They have undermined the peace process. James Baker, architect of the process, said that we must build trust. But the governments of Shamir and Rabin have only sown new distrust. The Israelis have deprived us of our credibility. Only 20 percent of the Palestinians still support the peace process. The PLO feels committed to the process, but it can continue only if the protection of the Palestinians is guaranteed. The massacre of Hebron has shown again that Zionism is some kind of racism. It was a mistake by the United States to rescind this resolution.

Israel's security is still the absolute priority of U.S. foreign policy. Israel gets military support from them and increasingly better weapons. The United States, but also Britain and France, which has just signed an agreement on military cooperation with Israel, must give up their double standards.

'Urayqat: Israeli Steps Not on 'Required Levels'

NC1503090094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] The Israeli Government has adopted measures in an attempt to siphon off Palestinian, Arab, and international anger following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. [passage omitted] The question is: Are these measures considered political?

['Urayqat] First, the Israeli measures have not risen to the required levels. [passage omitted] The issue is extremely sensitive. There must be international protection for the Palestinian people. Israel cannot be entrusted with the security of the Palestinians, especially as the Israeli army killed more people after the massacre

than fell in the terrorist operation in Hebron. Second, with regard to the decision to outlaw the Kakh and Kahana Hay Organizations, the Israeli Government adopted a decision in 1988 banning political activity by Kakh and preventing it from taking part in political elections. What's new? Before leaving for the United States, did Rabin want to send a message to the U.S. public to say that something was done? This is the peak of Israeli indifference, particularly, as I have said, as the Kakh Organization has been banned from exercising any political activity from the start.

[Al-Jundi] Since you referred to Rabin's visit to the United States, permit me to ask you: Did Rabin intend, by these recent measures, to address a message to the United States and U.S. President Bill Clinton to avoid pressure by the U.S. Administration?

['Urayqat] This is possible. But we must remember that the United States has been trying from the first day of the massacre to extricate Israel from its predicament. For example, the first decision made by Washington was procedural, that is, to transfer the negotiations from Cairo to Washington. The decision disregarded the substance. The negotiations in Cairo took place under Egyptian Government auspices on the highest level. There was very strong, positive Egyptian intervention in these negotiations. The United States has not intervened since the Madrid conference in any of the negotiating tracks. The second attempt to limit the damage has been the enormous pressure we have been facing as the Palestinian people and leadership at the UN Security Council. Everyone knows this and it is tantamount to extortion. With these measures, which have not risen to the required level of seriousness, Rabin wanted to ameliorate world public opinion and convince it that he is adopting measures. [passage omitted]

As we see on our streets and in our neighborhoods, the settlers move around with their weapons and provoke the people. Curfews are imposed on the victims. What we want to say is that the Israeli Government measures are ridiculous. They are surprising. They cast suspicion on Israel's credibility and desire for peace. We have told Israel from the beginning that the settlements are a time bomb. Israel said it will guarantee that no settler will carry out operations against the Palestinian people. After the terrorist operation in Hebron, who will guarantee that no new crime will take place in a mosque, church, field, university, or hospital? We must consider these issues, because we don't want to turn the occupied Palestinian territories into a new Bosnia in 10 years.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that the Palestinian negotiating strategy will take a new course, especially with regard to the removal of the settlements, because they constitute hotbeds of tension and time bombs in the occupied territory?

['Urayqat] The negotiations are not an end in and of themselves. Nor is their resumption. The issue is the substance of the negotiations. After the massacre, we are saying that any negotiations that do not have the settlements issue on their agenda will be useless and will complicate things. [passage omitted]

We are saying that the negotiations cannot proceed as they did before the massacre. What we fear is that Rabin wants to reorganize the occupation. The peace process was based on the principle of land for peace and on Resolution 242, which stipulated in its preamble that the occupation of others' territories by force is impermissible. The time has come, not only for a Palestinian, but also for an Arab stance, that is, a stance by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO, one that is directly concerned with the peace process. There is a need to convene a summit meeting and I call on the Egyptian Government to sponsor such an initiative and convene a meeting in Cairo to discuss the overall peace process in light of recent developments. It is unreasonable for this massacre to pass as if nothing had happened and for life to return to normal as a result of U.S. pressure and Israeli intransigence.

[Al-Jundi] Arab brothers, we thank our guest Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Dr. 'Urayqat, thank you very much and happy holiday.

['Urayqat] Thank you. A happy holiday to all.

UN Envoy Interviewed on Hebron Resolution

JN1103192594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1757 11 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with PLO UN envoy Nasir al-Qudwah, in New York, by Salah Salamah, in the studio, date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Thank you for being with us on "The Event" program.

[Al-Qudwah] Thank you.

[Salamah] You have been following daily developments in New York in your official capacity. How do you explain the footdragging in passing a resolution?

[Al-Qudwah] The reasons are numerous. One of these is that there are real differences between the Americans and ourselves on the wording with respect to Jerusalem as an integral part of the occupied territories, the protection of the Palestinian people, and the role of the sponsors of the peace process on the ground. Also, the United States wants to advance certain objectives in return for going along with a UN Security Council resolution. In any case, we believe we have not compromised any of the components of our position.

[Salamah] What seems to be the sticking point? Is it the text of the resolution, or is it the international presence or guarantees?

[Al-Qudwah] Personally, I think the text of the resolution has been settled, and that the United States may

seek some way to get around its opposition to certain parts, specifically the one to do with Jerusalem. The United States may seek a separate vote on each item of the resolution. What remains to be sorted out is the wording of the part dealing with a general Middle East settlement.

[Salamah] According to one report, there has been a suggestion that passage of the resolution will be linked to a resumption of the talks. How do you react to this report?

[Al-Qudwah] We are against such linkage. At the same time, we have made it plain that we are not boycotting the peace process. Neither are any of the parties involved in the peace process. Our position is clear. Our return to the negotiating process and its success clearly hinge on creating new facts in the occupied territory, whereby the Palestinian people are afforded protection through a direct international presence and a package of measures that must be instituted by the Israeli Government. This includes disarming settlers, dismantling, at any rate, some of these settlements, and expediting negotiations over their final status within the framework of the agreement concluded with Israel. We want this resolution to create new facts that may facilitate a return to the negotiating table.

[Salamah] You have spoken of the implementation of the resolution which you are expecting from the UN Security Council. What guarantees are you demanding to implement this resolution after your past experience with the previous resolutions, which remained mere ink on paper?

[Al-Qudwah] Exactly. In fact, I have said the same thing many ties over the past few days. We said clearly that the main thing in this respect is not necessarily adopting the resolution. The main thing is implementing this resolution. No doubt, adopting the resolution will be an important step forward, but this is not enough. We want to move to the implementation immediately after the adoption. We have bitter experience in terms of adopting resolutions that are not applied. Therefore, we must transfer the weight of the political moves toward the implementation process directly after the adoption of the resolution.

[Salamah] Mr. Nasir al-Qudwah, my colleague Joseph Samahah would like to ask you a question.

[Samahah] Hello, Mr. Nasir.

[Al-Qudwah] You are welcome.

[Samahah] The question is if the resolution is agreed on without the issue of Jerusalem. [sentence as heard] Has there been agreement on the nature of the international presence, its type, tasks, and points of reference, the areas of deployment, and if this means intervention by the UN Security Council or merely an implementation of the PLO-Israel bilateral agreement, because this was also a bone of contention. How was it thrashed out?

[Al-Qudwah] Brother Joseph, no doubt simply dealing with a general issue related to the Middle East and the Palestinian question is in itself an achievement and a change from the previous situation. We must remember that the UN Security Council has not discussed this question since the beginning of the Madrid process, except on two occasions. The issue in both cases was only the issue of deportation. At other times, the council was practically prevented from tackling this issue.

Therefore, in principle there is an important change. As for the contents of the resolution, as I have said, the United States has a problem with regard to Jerusalem. We vehemently insisted that no change should be introduced in this regard. For them, the solution could be, as I said, demanding separate voting on paragraphs and abstaining from voting on this particular paragraph. This procedural solution will not change the final result, which is adopting the resolution by consensus [al-tawafuq] as is agreed so far, including, of course, the paragraphs that deal with our definite demands, particularly providing protection for the Palestinian people.

[Samahah] But you have not answered my question on the international presence, its type, tasks, and points of reference, the areas of deployment. Is it in Gaza and Jericho, or in the entire West Bank and Gaza? Is it in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, or will it transcend it, being a Security Council resolution, or is it in implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? The question is still there.

[Salamah] Has this issue been thrashed out or not?

[Al-Qudwah] This is clear from the wordage. The text reads that the UN Security Council demands measures to provide protection for the Palestinian people in all the occupied territory. These are the words.

[Salamah] And it will be adopted in this form?

[Al-Qudwah] Yes.

[Salamah] And there is U.S. approval?

[Al-Qudwah] In English, it says: "throughout the occupied territory" [preceding four words in English]. The singular form is used, which means territorial unity of these areas.

[Salamah] Last question: How do you evaluate the other states' attitude toward the draft resolution?

[Al-Qudwah] The vast majority of the other states were extremely responsive. This horrible massacre undoubtedly engendered general international sympathy toward the Palestinian cause and the just demands we presented to the council. There were really no problems with any state among the UN Security Council member states. Our negotiations were, in fact, with the U.S. delegation in the presence—but not with the effective participation—of the Russian Federation delegation.

[Salamah] Thank you, Mr. Nasir al-Qudwah.

[Al-Qudwah] Thank you, my dear brother.

U.S. Stance in Security Council Shows 'Bias'

TA1103174294 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 10 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "An Exposed U.S. Position"]

[Text] Once again the Security Council deliberations over the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the procrastination in approving clear resolutions on this issue demonstrate the extent of the U.S. Administration's full bias in favor of Israel's leaders as well as its adoption of and total agreement with their positions.

Perhaps what exposes this bias is the U.S. stance on Jerusalem and the refusal to vote on a resolution that considers Jerusalem to be part of the occupied Palestinian territories. This, under the pretext of not interfering with what has been agreed on in Oslo, namely that discussion on the Jerusalem issue will be put off until the final stage of the talks.

With this unsound stance, the U.S. Administration is backing down from its previous position on Jerusalem, which considered the city to be an inseparable part of the occupied territories. At the same time, the U.S. Administration is ignoring the fact that talks over implementing the Oslo accord should be carried out with the aim of applying Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates the inadmissibility of occupying the lands of others by force. Clearly, this resolution applies to Jerusalem as well.

Furthermore, the U.S. Administration's excuse about not interfering with what has been agreed on in Oslo is a very flimsy pretext, because all the evidence and facts indicate that the United States is constantly interfering in the details of what is happening in our region—and always to the advantage of Israel's leaders.

There is no better proof of this than the U.S. Administration's position on Jerusalem and the recent Security Council discussions, as well as its invitation to resume the talks in Washington in a bid to deflect the massacre's repercussions and neutralize any position opposed to keeping the settlements in our occupied territories.

Hamas Issues 'Veiled Warning' on Revenge

TA1103165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Islamic militants have issued a veiled warning today that revenge for the Hebron massacre might come in Brooklyn, New York. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] said in a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip that the gunman who attacked a van of orthodox Jews in New York last week was inspired by Islamic teachings. One person was killed and three others wounded in that attack by a 28-year old Lebanese-born taxi driver.

'About 8,000' Attend Hamas Rally in Strip

TA1203203194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Terrorists fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza. The soldiers returned fire, wounding 'Adil Abu-al-'Abduh. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for the gunfire at an IDF observation post near the Ganey Tal settlement yesterday which slightly wounded a soldier.

Yesterday Hamas organized a large-scale mourning rally in commemoration of Ibrahim Salama, a Hamas fugitive shot dead by soldiers at the Eretz checkpoint last week. About 8,000 people participated in the rally. Ibrahim Salama had been involved in a series of violent attacks in which soldiers were killed. Addressing the rally were Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, as well as a Fatah representative. Fugitives affiliated with the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad fired in the air and pledged revenge. Yesterday the Islamic Jihad marked Jerusalem Day, which is celebrated on the instructions of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Israeli and U.S. flags were burned at the rally.

A Border Police unit captured three Palestinians armed with Kalashnikov rifles in Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood tonight. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the troops identified the men in a moving car and detained them without encountering resistance. One of the detained Palestinians, 'Imad Muhammad Mashrawi, is a Fatah Hawks fugitive.

Algeria

Zeroual Addresses Nation on Advent of 'Id al-Fitr

LD1203201394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Address to the nation by President Lamine Zeroual on the advent of 'Id al-Fitr; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Male and female citizens; on the occasion of the advent of 'Id al- Fitr it gives me pleasure to convey to you my most sincere greetings.

We ask that God may bring us to the next 'Id with prosperity and blessings and that he will inspire us with the wisdom and ability to serve the country and restore tranquillity and prosperity to our people, and security and stability to our country which is experiencing a difficult period in its history.

Brothers and sisters; I have had the opportunity to stress that Algeria is in need of all its faithful sons who are earnestly concerned for it and are eager to restore it to its true place among nations, and who do not spare themselves on its behalf. [passage omitted]

Thanks to these sacrifices the country will be victorious over its enemies who are criminals, traitors, and mercenaries.

On behalf of the state and in my own name, I express to them full and effective solidarity with them. I also express the solidarity of the state and its officials with the Armed Forces staff, the security men, and all the sections of society, the women and men who are still loyal to the covenant of 1 November 1956 [outbreak of the armed revolution].

Citizens, men and women; the month of Ramadan which is considered as one of the pillars of our holy religion has been spent by the Algerian people in difficult circumstances as a result of violence, and in the climate of an acute economic crisis. However, our people have been able to overcome these trials thanks to the strength of its faith, its love for its homeland, and attachment to its unity. The faith and determination of the Algerian people are the two pillars on which the action of the state is based in order to entrench a new era beneficial to all Algerians.

Brothers, sisters; I will continue work relentlessly and without any hesitation to reinforce the institutions of the state, restore security, and realize national concord and solidarity between all Algerians, and in order to undertake the reforms liable to revive the national economy. In this framework, we will also continue the fight against violence and criminality on the one hand, and promote serious dialogue with all the parties that respect the Constitution on the other, with a view to restoring stability to the country. [passage omitted]

FIS Spokesman Comments on Recent Jailbreak, Clashes

NC1403191594 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Bonn, March 14 (AFP)—A total of 1,684 prisoners escaped in a mass break-out from jail in Algeria, a spokesman of the country's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) told AFP in Germany Monday [14 March].

Official Algerian sources had spoken of 900 prisoners escaping in Thursday's break-out from the Tazoult jail, located 400 kilometres (240 miles) southeast of Algiers, near Batna.

The prisoners escaped when a force of Islamic guerrillas stormed the jail at dusk just as the evening meal was being served.

According to the Front spokesman, all those who escaped were "political prisoners of the FIS rank-and-file". Four hundred were serving life sentences and 350 had been condemned to death by special courts, he said.

Other sources had earlier indicated that the escapees included some common criminals.

In Algiers, security forces said Monday they had killed 24 and recaptured 79 of the prisoners. The hunt for the others was continuing and "a large amount of arms" had been found, they said.

According to the FIS spokesman, the authorities responded to the break-out by launching air-attacks using napalm in the western Aures region, to which the prisoners fled before "fanning out all over the country".

In Thursday's guerrilla attack against the Tazoult jail, one warder was killed, four were wounded and seven abducted, according to official Algerian sources. Two prison employees were accomplices, the Interior Ministry said.

The spokesman for the FIS abroad also said that at least 61 members of the security forces had died in clashes with armed Islamic groups between February 28 and March 5, mainly in the Algiers region.

An earlier toll spoke of 187 killed in the period February 13-28.

The FIS said 105 soldiers had been killed at the beginning of February in an ambush at Sidi Bel-Abes, south of Oran.

Moslem fundamentalists launched an armed insurgency against the Algerian authorities two years ago, after the cancellation of general elections which the fundamentalist FIS had been poised to win.

The Interior Ministry announced Monday that an overnight curfew imposed more than a year ago but eased during the Ramadan period would return to normal

hours from Tuesday and run from midnight (2300 GMT) to 4:00 a.m. (0300 GMT).

During Ramadan Moslems fast during the day, only taking their first meal at nightfall, which is thus a moment of relaxation. That was the moment the assailants stormed the prison, FIS sources said.

Egypt

'Immediate Return' to Negotiations Said 'Necessary'

NC1403150994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Protecting the Palestinians is a Firm Egyptian Demand"]

[Excerpt] In a recent interview with an Arab newspaper, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Egypt consistently backs the Palestinians and supports their demand to disarm the settlers. He voiced profound sorrow and regret over the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, stressing the need to agree on measures that guarantee Palestinian security in the occupied territories.

The Egyptian diplomatic establishment, with its well-known expertise and Arab and international influence, has succeeded in using the hideous crime perpetrated by Jewish extremists inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque to exert great pressure on Israel in the negotiations and has exploited the international condemnation of the act by demanding stronger powers for Palestinian autonomy. Egypt did not limit itself to denunciations but used the crime to promote the desired strategic solution.

Over the past few days President Mubarak contacted the leaders of many countries influential in the peace operation to convince them of the danger threatening the peace, which is illustrated by settlers with expansionist delusions in the Palestinian territories who perpetrate crimes against the Palestinians. These crimes are reaching new heights that adversely affect regional peace efforts and provoke popular Arab and Islamic wrath against Israel, as happened after the appalling Hebron incident.

An Arab and international consensus exists that the Palestinians need urgent international protection. Mubarak found responsive ears and international willingness to examine the issue of providing protection for the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, including the prompt adoption of actual measures for this purpose because no political power is worth anything without actual power to defend it.

When President Mubarak tells the Arab press that it is important to resume the peace negotiations and protect the Palestinians, he is actually stating that the most important reason to accept the peace agreement is to end the hardships of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, as they are subject to military repression and face injustices at the hands of settlers. An immediate return to the negotiating table is necessary to prevent the extremist settlers from benefiting by their crime, which aimed to undermine the peace process.

It is necessary to be reasonable and determine where Palestinian interests lie: in suspending the negotiations or returning to them. Hence Egypt is pursuing its political and diplomatic efforts to save the negotiations from the predicament in which the al-Ibrahimi Mosque crime has put them. We know that Egyptian efforts have gone hand in hand with the peace process from the beginning and have constantly been the lifesaver that rescued the hopes for peace and took them forward to a more advanced stage. [passage omitted]

Arabs Urged To Stand by 'Arafat in Peace Talks

NC1103210094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "So That They May Not Stand Alone in the Open"]

[Excerpts] Despite the abundant Arab blood that was unjustly shed by Israelis in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque Square in Hebron in Ramadan; despite the ugly, revolting, and cowardly act committed by an Israeli who bears U.S. nationality accompanied by a group of killer settlers under cover of the Israeli Defense Forces; despite the cosmetic attempts and deception in which the Israeli prime minister is proficient, such as releasing a few hundred detainees and disarming some settlers; and despite the whole world's condemnation of the crime and criminals, we reiterate and affirm—backed by historical evidence and the history of Israel, its rulers, institutions, and people—that Israeli violence inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is not the first and will not be the last. Israeli society, which was implanted inside the live Palestinian flesh, has shown the unique ability to spawn, foster, and protect terrorism. We do not exaggerate when we say that Israeli extremism was fostered in the lap of the military establishment and in the settlement institution itself, which views the entire Palestinian territory as the natural right of every Israeli. [passage omitted]

Slaughterer Baruch Goldstein, the killer of Muslims at prayer in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, who bears dual Israeli-U.S. citizenship; and before him Former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the champion of the Dayr Yasin massacre; former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, champion of the Sabra and Shatila massacres; Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who advocated breaking the bones of the intifadah heroes, whose hands are dripping with the blood of innocent Palestinians; and dozens of generals and leaders, who committed massacres against defenseless Palestinians, are calling on the Arabs to turn over a new leaf and salvage the peace process, as if peace can only be achieved with the corpses of Arabs and Palestinians.

We will never be content with a Security Council meeting and passing resolutions condemning the massacre, because this would be mere ink on paper. The situation now requires an overall Arab assessment of all developments from the Oslo agreement to the Cairo agreement in order to define our path. In other words, we do not want to leave the Palestinians alone to face this ordeal. Whether we like it or not, the Palestinian issue will remain primarily an Egyptian issue and an Arab issue that affects pan-Arab security. We do not want to leave the Palestinian negotiator alone in the open to face killers, executioners, and the schemes of the Israelis who claim to seek peace.

Since all Arab countries have condemned and denounced the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and since all Arab governments have defined their position on the planned Israeli terrorism, and since all Arab regimes have agreed that the crux of the problem is due to the existence of the armed Israeli settlements and the lack of protection for the Palestinian people, we do not want to leave Yasir 'Arafat to stand alone to face the plotting and to declare the continued suspension of the negotiations. There will be no solution. A real solution lies in a call by the Arab League for an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to be held urgently at the Arab League or in any Arab capital, to agree on a unified Arab stance on negotiations and the peace process.

Israel continues to build settlements and to arm settlers and to distribute arms on a large scale inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in preparation for a civil war after implementing the self-rule agreement. It is a time bomb that Israel has planted to go off at a certain moment. We are not exaggerating when we say that Israel itself is a real threat to Arab security. It poses a threat to the entire Arab region. The Israeli society poses a constant threat to the Palestinian people. Despite this, Israel negotiates and says in a loud voice that its security is threatened and that it wants the Oslo agreement and the Cairo agreement to guarantee its security. Such an opportunistic stance will prevent genuine peace with Israel.

We are in dire need of a new Arab will, new approach, and new peace that fulfills all Arab rights. The peace that we seek means withdrawal, dismantling of the settlements, departure of the settlers, and granting the Palestinian people the right to determine their future and establish their state. There is a dire need for a new Arab decision that will put things right and not leave the Palestinian negotiator alone in the open while we continue to repeat statements of condemnation and denunciation.

Editorial on Mubarak, New International Order

NC1203100194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0540 GMT 12 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, in its editorial today, comments on President Husni Mubarak's interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH. Under the headline "The New Chaotic Order," the paper notes that President Mubarak described the new international order as a new chaotic order.

The newspaper writes: What we see in today's world is chaos, not order. What is happening in Russia, the former Eastern bloc, Iran, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina demonstrate the traits of this new international order. The new order is characterized by chaos, wars, and genocide perpetrated by the big powers against downtrodden nations, particularly the Muslim ones. Muslim people have suffered terribly under the new order. This is true in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Islamic republics that were part of the former Soviet Union.

Aswan-Cairo Train Fired Upon; Passengers Unharmed

NC1203151194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Ministry of Interior today stated that unidentified men opened fire at train No. 85 from a field between the village of Bani Qurrah and al-Qusiyah city, Asyut Governorate. The train was heading to Cairo from Aswan. The source noted that none of the train's passengers was hurt in the incident. The train continued its trip to Cairo.

Police departments continue their efforts to arrest the assailants and the prosecution office has been notified to start an investigation.

Libya

Commentary Criticizes U.S.Call for More Sanctions

LD1403173494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar—The Voice of America broadcasted yesterday a commentary that reflects the views of the U.S. Government.

As is customary, the commentary accused the Great Jamhiriyah of supporting what it termed as terrorism and spoke about what it termed as sanctions against Libya, which where imposed by the UN Security Council on the Great Jamahiriyah.

The commentary said: America will seek to impose other sanctions, including an embargo on Libyan oil.

The JANA Arab affairs editor has responded to that saying:

These remarks, which American officials have grown accustomed to reiterating, affirm that their originators are shameless. One even doubts if they really belong to the human kind. Otherwise, had they a little bit of shame, they would have kept quiet and refrained from repeating the talk about terrorism and official terrorism after what they have done in the al-Ibrahimi mosque, killing worshippers while prostrating for God.

We may ask here what is behind these remarks. Are those who made it trying to cover the Sun with a mesh when they pour their irresponsible accusation against Libya, claiming that there are Libyans accused of opening fire on American Embassy officials in Sudan and Yemen, of murdering American and British hostages, of launching an attack on a British air base in Cyprus, of hijacking an American plane in Pakistan, and of planting explosives in a Jewish synagogue.

The American Government is trying to cover up the fresh scandal in the Security Council, which was, as a result of the American position, incapable of issuing a resolution condemning Israel of terrorism for killing tens of praying Palestinians inside the holy al-Ibrahimi mosque two weeks after that savage massacre. Was not America's position in the Security Council based on terrorism, and was there not more official terrorism when America affirms before the entire world that it supports the perpetrators of the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre, protects them, and prevents international condemnation of them? Was not that an encouragement to those terrorists to commit more of these massacres? And then what can we call America's arming of doctors with machine guns and encouraging them to commit collective massacres against the Palestinians? Is not that terrorism?

But to make threats, in accordance with the American official's assertions in his statement, on the need to impose trade and oil embargo on Libya, would only make us, the Libyans, scornful, because we believe in ourselves and we are proud of our free will and our sovereign decision, which are not the subject of any blackmail. It is, furthermore, a stance that would make us reiterate with clarity that we do not need you; we do not need your industries or your business; we do not need to sell our oil to you or to Europe, which is under your sphere of influence.

We no longer need your equipment to market our oil, and moreover, we wish the day when we have no oil would come, because once we get ourselves rid of oil the better we are, as there would no longer be anything to threaten us with. And who said that we have been seeking to forge an economic cooperation with you? What kind of cooperation can be established with an enemy? What has been separating us is barriers and a sea of blood for centuries.

History has thus spoken and facts have thus affirmed. However, what you should bear always in mind when you were making such statements is the fact that you are dealing with a people that has divorced fear; nothing will ever frighten it save losing its freedom and dignity, which it will defend until the last man.

Hence, we look forward to the moment when you would deprive us once and for all from what you have called "our sophisticated equipment," to the moment when we get ourselves rid of industry and oil and of everything else you have been trying to use as a means to shackle us. Because only then we can deal with you in a way that would remind you of what the Vietnamese people had done to you when routing you and the Red Army, which you were never sure from where it was going to hit you again, and the IRA, whose members you have called terrorists and accused us of helping terrorism when we had contacts with them at a time His Majesty's government [as received] was holding secret meetings and negotiations with them. This army closed Great Britain's airport for 48 hours under its blows. You will taste something even more bitter than what was done to you by Aidid, who forced you to escape from Somalia after inflicting shame and disgrace on your forces because he has nothing to lose and because you yourselves have turned him into a guerrilla, relentless in confronting you and attacking your forces.

It has become clear that you are incapable of protecting your citizens and tourists, who are falling everywhere, because the ones who are fighting you are ghosts you do not know and who appear from nowhere and deal you [word indistinct]. They are not a regular army or a state or a government. For this reason we wish that we too turn into ghosts, and we are sure that you are going down that path. That will be the time to turn the world on your heads, and our slogan in this confrontation will be: On me and on my enemies. We will fight according to this slogan's spirit anywhere and from any spot. Then you will not be able to threaten us or hit us with your aircraft and atomic bombs because we got rid of everything that makes us prisoners to your threats and, thanks to you, we turned into giants, ghosts, and guerrillas. You will not find us as anything other than fighters wherever you show your faces.

There is enough in this to warn you against the consequences of continuing to level irresponsible accusations and attacks against us and to seek sham justifications with references to international laws. It is you who violate international law and trample under foot and violate international conventions in front of the world. You are using state terrorism as a method in international dealings, and you support, protect, and pardon terrorists and pardon yourselves from punishment and from chapter 7 of the UN charter. You are dominating the Security Council and using it as a sword hanging over the heads of the peoples that reject submission to your blackmail. You issue on its behalf false resolutions against them, resolutions we do not recognize, just as we do not recognize the Security Council.

What respect to international conventions are you calling for? And when you ask Libya to hand over to you

its two citizens, do you respect the Montreal convention, which clearly says any signatory state has the right to carry out the necessary measures to impose its own judicial provisions concerning the crimes pertaining to civil aviation when the accused is in its territory and it has not handed him over. The convention also gives the signatory states, including the Great Jamahiriyah, naturally the right to take its own national judicial measures to impose its own jurisdiction in the case where the accused is in the territory of the state on whose territory the crime was not committed, and where the airplane was not registered, and when it has not handed him over either to the state where the crime was committed or to the state handing over the plane [sentence as received].

Therefore, the two Libyan citizens whom you are accusing are in their own country where they should be tried according to its own national jurisdiction and not in any other country, according to the Montreal convention. What legal logic are you going to use to meet this convention, barring falsification and forgery, and [indistinct word] international law and trampling it under foot?

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties With Iran

LD1403143694 Tehran ?IRNA in English 1350 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Athens, March 14, IRNA—"Kuwaiti-Iranian ties are more than good at this stage and the proof is that there is an open invitation by President Rafsanjani to the emir to visit Iran," Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir told Saudi weekly AL-MAJALLAH in an interview. Ahmad al-Jabir categorically denied reports that the detention of some Kuwaiti fishermen by Iranian coastal guards has dampened bilateral relations .

"I do not know from where you come with these false information," Ahmad al-Jabir replied to the AL-MAJALLAH correspondent when he alleged that Tehran-Kuwait relations are "disturbed" because of the arrest of "many" Kuwaiti fishermen by Iranian border guards. "Concerning the problem of the Kuwaiti fishermen and the detention of some of them by Iranian coastal guards, this is due to the interlocking of the territorial waters of the two countries.

"Officials of both countries are now taking practical steps to avoid such problems in the future which I do not think disturb the good and growing relations between the two countries and their two friendly peoples," the Kuwaiti foreign minister added.

In the interview published in last week's issue of the Arab magazine, Ahmad al-Jabir said Kuwait continues to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people "despite the position of its leadership."

Interior Minister Says Story of Spy in Iraq 'Fabricated'

JN1403131994 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 9

[Interview with Interior Minister Ahmad Hamud by Khalid al-Mash'an "during a dinner banquet at his residence" on 6 March]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Mash'an] An international newspaper published the photo of a Kuwaiti citizen, who was arrested in Iraq on charges of espionage against Iraq. Has this citizen been identified? And what is your response to Iraq's accusation that this citizen was sent by the Kuwaiti Intelligence Service?

[Hamud] The Iraqi regime has always tried to hamper any progress in Kuwait. It has always tried to tarnish Kuwait's image in front of the international community. I believe this story was fabricated by the Iraqi media, which has experience in such fabrications.

We will not try to identify this person because he might be an Iraqi who was wearing a Kuwait dress and claimed to be a Kuwaiti citizen. The Iraqi regime is used to such farces. This person might have also been in Kuwait before the invasion and the Iraqi regime is now claiming that he works for Kuwaiti Intelligence.

The Iraqi regime is known for these fabrications. I believe that if there were Nobel prizes for media fabrications the Iraqi regime would be the winner. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mash'an] There have been reports that another trench will be dug on the northern border. What is the purpose of this?

[Hamud] A plan has been set to build a security wall. One of its phases is to dig the trench. Once the digging of the trench is completed we will embark on the second phase, etc., until we finish the three-phase plan. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mash'an] When will the Central Committee begin to study the status of the al-Bidun [stateless persons]? Did the committee create a plan to solve this problem?

[Hamud] The Central Committee is working to set up its headquarters and to recruit employees. After the 'Id, I will meet with the Central Committee to create a plan, lay its foundations, and begin the committee's working plan.

The committee will then announce the steps it will follow in its work. It will also explain the way to submit applications to this committee.

I would like to settle this issue as soon as possible. I am confident that the brothers who were consulted and who agreed to be members of the committee will do their utmost. We wish them success in their work to solve this problem. [passage omitted]

Officials Deny 'Abnormal Diseases' Surfaced After War

JN1403172194 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by 'Adnan al-Lughani]

[Text] The ministers of defense and health have stated that Kuwait, in the aftermath of the Kuwait liberation war, is free of any abnormal diseases.

This came in remarks made after taking part in a meeting of the Environment Committee of the National Assembly. Minister of Defense Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has dismissed as utterly groundless foreign press reports, as carried in local press, that chemical materials were used in the war for the liberation of Kuwait. He regretted that the press has carried such news reports, which only aim to shake the citizens' confidence and make them believe that the earth and climate in our country are polluted with bacteriological germs. This is untrue, he noted.

In a related development, Minister of Health Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Fawzan, who, along with several Health Ministry officials, took part in the meeting, has stated that official statistics and studies conducted in the country are reassuring. These statistics and studies showed that the figures for birth deformities, miscarriages, cancer, and dermatological diseases reported before the Iraqi invasion of the country remained unchanged in the aftermath of this invasion.

The minister added that the amount of radiation in the atmosphere in the State of Kuwait is within normal ranges. He went on to say that the reported infection of some U.S. troops serving in the Gulf with a certain disease was caused by a skin rash precipitated by cutaneous leishmaniasis and the so-called oriental sore. This, in turn, was caused by sandflies, which are very common in the Arabian Peninsula and Iran. These infections are limited and natural, the health minister noted.

Dr. al-Fawzan maintained that the ministry does not agree with the reports published in newspapers in this regard. The ministry regards such reports as unreliable. The ministry only trusts the WHO releases, which have dismissed as groundless reports that abnormal diseases surfaced in Kuwait in the aftermath of the liberation war. He added that the WHO had taken part in several of the studies the Health Ministry conducted in Kuwait.

The minister noted that the local news media must play a great role in enlightening citizens and assuring them about the health situation in the country. These media must also contact Ministry of Health officials when they receive any pertinent reports from foreign sources, he added.

For his part, Dr. Nasir Sirkhuh, rapporteur of the Environment Committee of the National Assembly, said that the committee raised this issue with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Health after international news reports surfaced that some strange diseases spread in the region in the aftermath of the Kuwait liberation war, and that U.S. troops caught these diseases. He added that meetings with officials of the two ministries confirmed that these press reports are groundless, and that the health situation in the country is sound. Contrary to these reports, he noted, statistics have shown an improvement in many areas of the health situation in Kuwait, compared to the situation before the occupation.

Dr. Sirkhuh concluded by saying that he is not aware of the motives behind these tendentious press reports.

Iranian Forces Reportedly Fire on Shawrah Plain

NC1403162194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] The Shawrah Plain area in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate came under rocket fire on 11 March from Iranian positions. The Iranian forces fired 26 rockets at the aforesaid area, causing heavy property damage and forcing a large number of people to leave the area.

Car Bomb Reportedly Injures 2 Swedish Reporters

NC1403155994 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, March 14, (AFP)—Two Swedish journalists were injured in a car bomb attack near 'Aqrah in the Kurdish-controlled region of northern Iraq, Kurdish security forces said Monday [14 March].

The two freelances were only slightly hurt in the explosion Sunday caused by a bomb packed with TNT attached to their car.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Kurdish driver of the car was arrested.

Recent attacks on foreigners have been blamed on the Iraqi government, opposed to foreign aid for the Kurds in the area, set up following the 1991 Gulf war.

Columnist Speculates on Benefits of Visit by Pope

JN1403105894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

["Viewpoint" by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Will the Pope Visit Iraq?"]

[Text] In a noteworthy statement, Rafa'el I Bidawid, bishop of the Catholic Chaldeans in Iraq, has said that Pope John Paul II has promised to visit Iraq at the appropriate time. This statement is encouraging because the visit, even if made on purely humanitarian grounds, will implicitly reassert that the Pope and the Christian world reject U.S. Zionist schemes to touch off a new series of Crusades.

We cannot help but note the failure of the Bush administration to control the world in the name of the "new world order" and the fact that he had no choice but to admit that the world is drowning in chaos, crises, and challenges—thus precluding the establishment of a new world order. This marked the collapse of one U.S. strategy and the prelude to the adoption of another horrifying and even more criminal option; namely, pushing the world into the holocaust of ethnic and religious wars, making them the bases for future conflicts.

Indeed, since the end of the seventies, U.S. policy has been based on creating and fueling ethnic and sectarian strife. Therefore, this is not a new policy. What, then, has the Clinton administration brought with it? The new element is that the scheme of creating crises is no longer a method to pressure or remove this or that regime in this or that country. It is now an attempt to redraw the map of world conflicts and their causes. In light of this, the "cultural motive"—allegiances to religion or national culture—will be the major cause of wars.

Consequently, future wars, if the United States gets its way, will be wars of conflicting cultures. Thus, Arab - Islamic - Confucian - Buddhist - Eastern cultures will be pitted against Western - Christian - Protestant - European cultures. Perhaps, Professor Samuel Huntington best explained the U.S. scheme in his research paper "Conflict of Cultures."

The fall of Bush and the rise of Clinton was not the only development that reflected a change in U.S. strategy. U.S. political thought also witnessed the death of one of the most short-lived and absurd of its theories—the theory of the "end of history" propounded by U.S. researcher Francis Fokoyama. According to this theory, the history of conflict would end with the victory of U.S. liberalism. This theory lasted less than three years. It was buried along with Bush, pushing to the forefront the option of the "war of cultures," Huntington's theory, which contradicts the "end of history" theory.

The United States is now doing what the European feudal systems did in the Middle Ages when they sought to resolve their domestic economic crises by capturing the huge resources of the East. Thus, the Crusades were used as a cover to mobilize the simple-minded and conceal the true economic objectives of thievery.

The United States is now trying to ignite cultural, religious, and ethnic wars only to hide its failure and crisis and control a world worn out by wars and crises.

Hence, the Pope's crucial role. The Zionist United States is mobilizing Christian and Jewish public opinion against the Arabs and Muslims, as well as every other culture and religion. It is doing this to achieve economic and strategic objectives familiar to those in the know. It also seeks to ignite new Crusades. The Pope can, however, actively contribute to thwarting this criminal scheme of the West's capitalist states.

The new capitalist Crusade has chosen Iraq as a target of its malice. It is a major target for igniting new Crusades that will last for hundreds of years. It is doing this by harming Iraq so greatly that it will never be forgotten by Iraq, Arabs, or Muslims and thus become a motive for revenge. Despite Iraq's insistence on highlighting the nonreligious motives of this Western hostility to Arabs and Muslims, Iraq's efforts need the support of the "other camp," which the United States has nominated to launch wars against us. Hence, the role of the Pope in foiling the plan of pagan capitalism in the West. The very visit of the Pope to Iraq will send a clear message to all; namely, that Christianity is innocent of the greed of capitalism and its criminal plans, and that Islam and

Christianity have peacefully coexisted for thousands of years. They can—indeed they must—continue to coexist peacefully.

The visit is also a message from the Pope to the Iraqi people saying: We are innocent of your suffering. We sympathize with you and wish the embargo would end. This way, we would fully immunize the Iraqi citizen against warped ideas and ensure, by his awareness and balanced thinking, that he will not be carried away by destructive conflicts.

This is how we view the Pope's visit and its importance. The timing of the visit is vital. The fact that it should precede the lifting of the embargo is extremely significant, because what is needed from this visit is encouragement for the "Christian world" to act in a more daring manner toward lifting the embargo and applying pressure toward this end. Will the Pope do it?

Columnist Urges 'Blood Revenge' for Hebron Massacre

JN1103172094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 8

["AL-THAWRAH Diary" column by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja': "Karmilites: Palestinian Blood, Whose Responsibility Is it?"]

[Text] The Dayr Yasir, Kafr Qasim, al-Aqsa, Sabra and Shatila, Nahr al-Barid, and al-Baddawi massacres weren't even close. Perhaps the Tall al-Za'tar massacre was, but what happened was a combination of all these massacres at once. It was the bloody Friday massacre that extended from Hebron to Gaza, Nabulus to Ramallah, and from the ocean to the gulf, enveloping the entire Arab homeland; a massacre that was the natural twin—since it came from the same womb—of the Hamah massacre in Syria in 1982 and the al-'Amiriyah shelter massacre in Baghdad in 1991. It was the massacre that drowned the faces, souls, bodies, policies, and the persons of the gathering of servility, humiliation, abandonment, concession, and normalization with the Zionist Jews—the Hafr al-Batin gathering.

The Palestinian blood that filled the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron was a bath from which none of those Zionist Arabs who shook hands with Zionist Jews will emerge.

It was a bloody massacre, drowning in eternal shame Hafiz al-Asad, Husni Mubaak, Fahd, Jabir, and all the others. They are responsible for the death of Iraqi children in their sickbeds in hospitals due to shortages of medicine and food. This is thanks to the blockade imposed by the savage civilization that has allowed the death of Muslims in Sarajevo and danced to the tune of Arab deaths from Somalia to Baghdad, via the West Bank and Gaza, to the remotest areas of the Earth, wherever people speak Arabic or recite the holy book in Arabic, because the Koran is Arab and Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, was an Arab.

This Palestinian blood is the curse of the righteous martyrs who fell in defense of the Allahu Akbar flag [Iraqi flag] and for the sake of justice, freedom, and human dignity. It is the curse of the martyrs on everyone who has betrayed their blood and generous sacrifices and disavowed the sacred slogans for which they died peacefully, knowing their blood will not be wasted.

This Palestinian blood is the responsibility of those who rushed to Madrid.

It is the responsiblity of those for whom Washington has become Mecca.

It is the responsibility of those who sold Arab national honor in the slave market between the walls of the Security Council and the Knesset.

Tell me, O nation of Muhammad; tell me, O free Arabs, what would have happened if Palestinians had attacked a Jewish synagogue and slain seventy and wounded 500 others in cold blood?

Nay, what would have happened had a faithful Arab government slain 10 debased traitors in broad daylight? Would it not have aroused the [Security] Council, human rights, and the new world order? In fact, armies would have moved, missiles would have been launched, and aircraft would have taken off to burn and destroy!

What peace, what normalization, and what agreements can there be with criminal racist murderers? Let God be our witness, whoever calls for or strives toward that will be directly responsible for every drop of Palestinian blood that has been, or is being, shed on the soil of the entire Arab homeland from the ocean to the gulf.

O pure blood, you are boiling in the veins. You are the moment of truth that burns the spiders web. O Palestinian blood, can we forget you? If we did, we would not be Arabs. Woe to us from our grandsons and conscience. Woe to us from our Arab blood which is calling us day and night: Revenge, revenge. Where is the Arab who forgets blood revenge?

Columnist on Mubarak's Role in Gulf War

JN1103192194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 3

[Article: "The Egyptian Regime's Despicable Pages in the 30-State Aggression against Iraq" by Hadi Tu'mah]

[Text] When Husni Mubarak came to Baghdad in late July 1990 reportedly to mediate between Iraq and al-Sabah [Kuwait] to calm the critical situation, U.S. talk about a so-called replacement for Iraq's political leadership had already figured in the policies of U.S. and Western propaganda media, which are largely controlled by Zionism. Leader President Saddam Husayn learned

about and explained this to April Gelaspie, the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, in late July 1990.

The economic and political conspiracy al-Sabah had coordinated with the U.S. Administration and the CIA to subvert the entire Iraqi national system, as clearly established in Kuwaiti documents, had already pushed Iraqi-Kuwait relations to the maximum state of tension, poisoned the entire political atmosphere in the region, and encouraged al-Sabah to go ahead with their plans.

The al-Sabah defense of the dividing line, which British colonialism had created with the stroke of a pen by its political resident Percy Cooks, was not the least of their aims in stirring up the conspiracy and trying to establish a fait accompli in the Iraqi side of the "patrols line", which the Arab League had defined during the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis in the sixties; the line which the president considered a determining factor for those violations. The al-Sabah set up on the Iraqi side of that line oil installations, border posts, and farms, as also mentioned in his excellency's talks with Gelaspie.

Given the al-Sabah's mobilization of their armed forces and the insistence on prejudicing Iraq's national and political honor, and the fact that Kuwaiti economic and U.S. political plotting had reached a serious stage, Iraq had to respond equally by moving its forces and using its legitimate right to foil the new plot, after its political efforts from 1989 until July 1990 met with deaf ears and strong stubbornness. Those efforts were wasted when al-Sabah did away with Arab fraternity and cooperation and resorted instead to the spirit of hostility and fighting.

It also became clear to Iraq that al-Sabah's attitude was not just a stubborn stand to carry out their wishes within Kuwait's limits, but a coordinated stand with the United States and its allies to plan a new war and to achieve what the plot of the Iranian aggression could not achieve. The aim of the new war was the same as that of the Iranian war, which was to push Iraq to scientific, industrial, and social backwardness, weaken it before the growing Zionist power, and force it to make political concessions which would restrict its free, independent course, end its advancement plan, and compel it to make concessions on its national soil and resources and stop opposing Camp David and its effects and any other similar step leading to the liquidation of the Palestine question.

Those were the demands the U.S. Administration had declared openly more than once, on an official level and in the U.S.-Zionist propaganda and news media.

What Iraq already knew was confirmed by the official correspondence between the director general of the State Security Department in Kuwait and the Iraqi interior: There was agreement and coordination with the CIA that al-Sabah and Washington would work together to put pressure on Iraq at the highest levels, pressure which would exploit Iraq's economic conditions after 8-year war. This was clearly mentioned in an official statement dated 22 November 1989 which Iraq deposited with the United Nations, which also considered it a correct, unblemished statement and included it among its documents

That agreement and coordination explain Jabir al-Sabah's arrogance and haughtiness in insisting on going to Jeddah under his own terms and asking Sa'd al-Sabah not to listen to anything else, because, as he said, "this is the opinion of our friends in Egypt, Washington, and London."

The position taken by Jabir and Sa'd was also that of the the United States, and Zionism, of course. The al-Sabah were used as pawns on the conspiratorial chess board.

As for Husni Mubarak, who used his good offices as a coverup, he played the mean role of escalating the tense, critical situation to the point of explosion, as ordered by those hostile quarters. This was obvious when he conveyed to Jabir al-Sabah an incomplete version of what the leader president confided to him when he said: "So long as the talks remain between Iraq and Kuwait, then I will not use force. But brother Husni, do not say this to the Kuwaitis since it will only make them more arrogant." The words conveyed by Husni that "Saddam Husayn will not attack Kuwait" were a clear plot to encourage the al-Sabah to go ahead with their hostile stand to spark off the U.S. Zionist plot.

Due to the reassurance generated by Husni Mubarak's remark, Jabir al-Sabah went ahead with his conspiracy. His recommendations to Sa'd al-Sabah in his talks with the vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council during their famous Jeddah meeting on 30 July 1990 were stubborn, like a solid, jagged rock. Husni Mubarak's remark, plus Jabir al-Sabah's determination to ride the conspiratorial train, which was backed by U.S. engines and military might, was the main reason for the failure of the Jeddah talks and al-Sabah's defiance and threat that international forces would compel Iraq to respond to their demands.

That was the visible part of the conspiracy, which had other hidden parts. The political observer could not but note these serious, major developments, especially the political propaganda campaign which Western governments and world Zionism had waged in the media against Iraq in general and leader President Saddam Husayn in person since 8 August 1988. The aims of this propaganda were summed up by a U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator Dole in April 1990, as follows: Iraq should revise its scientific program and industrial advancement on the pretext that it threatens Iraqi interest and peace in the region; stop making threats to the Zionist entity, although it threatened Iraq; and contribute actively and constructively toward the current peace process between Israel and the representatives of the Palestinians.

Those exactly were the hidden reasons behind al-Sabah's insistence on riding the train of the oil conspiracy, which steamed off with U.S. motivation and Zionist instigation

under the slogan of demanding: 1) Demarcation of the border according to the new violations. 2) Payment of debts!

In all cases, the aim was one, namely, enforcing the demands of U.S.-Zionist policy as summed up by Senator Dole. But what was not secret to analysts, and it must not remain secret to anyone now that the war took place with the 30-state aggression, was what the hostile circles had decided, which was to push Iraq to the state of the blockade it is in now. This blockade actually began with the decision of the U.S. Congress earlier in 1990 to cancel the food deals with Iraq. This was followed by the imposition of the scientific and technological embargo, whether or not the war took place, rather whether we behaved in a manner that befitted free men, or followed the path of defeatism and cowardice.

What was required in all cases was to stop Iraq's advancement project and thus affect people's progress and prosperity, spoil the peace and victory the Iraqi people enjoyed after 8 August 1988, and block the growing popularity of Iraq which, with time, would become a popular unity base. This was what the imperialist states and Zionism had feared because it meant foiling their infinitesimal plan against the unity of the Arab homeland, ending the divisions, and consolidating the march of confrontation against Zionist aggression and its settler arrogance. That was what Iraq had achieved in a striking manner, particularly after 8 August 1988.

Therefore, al-Sabah's insistence was not spontaneously based on a balance of power or a demand for legitimate rights. Any observer could easily see that al-Sabah's small size and challenge was no match to Iraq's new weight. The fact is, the insistence stemmed from the opinion of Egypt, Washington, and London!

Consequently, the Jeddah talks had to fail, and Iraq found itself compelled to crush the den of sinful plotting which sought in every mean way to involve Iraq in a war of starvation and humiliation, similar in results to what we are in now, especially after Iraq had proved its competence in the armed war against the Zionist entity in 1973 and against Iran from 1980 to 1988. The al-Sabah were in no position to engage in one percent of such a war and still remain on their thrones, even for a few hours.

On 2 August 1990, while the Arab foreign ministers were meeting in Cairo, Husni Mubarak, to quote Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, was reading a situation report prepared by his office with the cooperation of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and General Intelligence. The main points and recommendations of that report were as follows:

- Iraq's entry into Kuwait was a blow to Egyptian interests on more than one level, both with regard to its direct interests and its leading position in the Arab World; a position which the Egyptian Government was determined to hold on to, even if in the disgraceful Camp David abyss.

- It was necessary for Egypt to mobilize the entire Arab world in order to exercise maximum political pressure on Baghdad. This could be done through a meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

The report, which gave tacit approval to U.S. intervention in advance, also reached other conclusions. It said, verbatim:

- It is better for U.S. intervention in the crisis to be carried out, step by step, otherwise it will give Iraq the chance to arouse the Arab public, which was what the U.S. Administration had actually done throughout the six and one-half months before the military aggression.

- A clear message must be sent to the Zionist entity asking it not to get involved in the crisis to avoid complicating matters, making the solution difficult. This point was made several times and recommended for implementation.

While Husni Mubarak was reading these recommendations, which seem to have been drawn up before 2 August 1990, Tel Aviv radio was lamenting the loss of "fraternal Kuwait." The Zionist entity was holding contacts with Washington to coordinate on how to face the situation, especially since Tel Aviv had its own aggressive plan against Iraq, which was to have been implemented before July 1990 if it had not been for the deterrent Iraqi threat made by leader President Saddam Husayn in April 1990, and had it not also been for Washington's fears about its "vital interests" in the region in case of an outbreak of war sparked by Zionist aggression. The Zionist entity's cabinet held an emergency meeting in the same afternoon to discuss urgent matters. Thus, the Zionist entity and Husni Mubarak seemed to be pursuing the same line, carrying out the economic plot by armed force under the cover of double-dealing and the policy of selective revenge

At the time when the Zionist entity was hoping military action against Iraq would be carried out by the big powers on behalf of the small states, contrary to previous practice, Husni Mubarak was preparing the atmosphere in the lobbies of the Arab League to find a "legal" cover for the entry of U.S. forces and its allies in the Arabian Peninsula, which would be the base for aggression on Iraq. Without such a base, the United States would be fighting a war similar in results to the war in Vietnam, according to Bush and his followers. Wiping out the Vietnamese complex had been Bush's obsession for some time. It occupied a significant place in his inauguration speech. In fact, he often mentioned the subject after 2 August 1990 and during the armed aggression. Husni Mubarak gave him this priceless opportunity when he violated the Arab League Charter by resorting to a formal vote instead of the unanimous vote required

by the charter in such cases. That was his biggest crime against the entire nation, as certified by all Arab delegations.

Egyptian Housing and Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi was very clear in his statement to AL-MUSAWWAR on 29 March 1991 when he admitted the importance of the treacherous role played by the Hafr al-Batin allies and the sinful aggression they committed against Iraq, and therefore the Arab nation. He said, verbatim: "Were it not for the position taken by Husni Mubarak, there would not have been any Kuwait or UN Security Council resolutions today. Kuwait, the Gulf, and Saudi Arabia would have complained to the Security Council and entered into endless complications and interpretations, as in the case of the Palestine question, which has been in the United Nations since 1948, and will be, perhaps, forever. Were it not for Mubarak also, the United States—the biggest power in history and in our modern world—would not have been able to intervene under any excuse. And if it did, there would have been another Vietnam or a Crusader war. The one who gave it legality was President Mubarak! And the one who made King Fahd invite the U.S. forces was President Mubarak."

There is no doubt then that Husni was the one who gave legality to the United States and the allied forces to intervene.

Whoever claims that Egypt's role was marginal does not understand the course of events. Egypt was the one that created the Gulf war and the one that returned Kuwait.

This dirty role the Egyptian housing and reconstruction minister boasted about was, in fact, a treasonous role that Husni Mubarak played, and is still playing, for Washington and Camp David.

As for the story about the United States canceling Egypt's debts, which amounted to $7 billion, those debts were actually repaid from Arab oil money, not by the U.S. Treasury, according to a decision by war criminal Bush and other members of his coalition and agents.

Rabin 'Not Disappointed' With Failure of Tunis Talks

TA1503055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians remain at a standstill after talks in Tunis between an Israeli delegation and PLO leaders failed to break the impasse. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat met twice with the Israeli team, headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. He also met for five hours with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, but no progress was reported. More from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] Yasir 'Arafat had meetings yesterday with the Israeli delegation, with the U.S. negotiator Dennis Ross, and with the Russian envoy and the Norwegian mediator. All of them tried to persuade the Palestinian leader to resume the negotiations with Israel, but they failed.

According to reports from Tunis and Washington, the differences between Ross and 'Arafat were mainly over the wording of the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre. 'Arafat was reported to have said he would not resume the negotiations without achievements for the Palestinians on the ground. 'Arafat's aide, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, told reporters the PLO is still looking for guarantees for the security of the Palestinians. A foreign correspondent in Tunis quoted one of the Israeli negotiators as saying: No concessions on settlements; no concessions on settlers. The Israeli negotiator was speaking immediately after having telephoned Prime Minister Rabin between meetings with 'Arafat. Israel did ban the Kakh and Kahana Hay organizations and took other steps against the hard core of the Jewish extremists, but it rejected the PLO's demands for the evacuation of some settlements and the disarming of all the settlers.

Rabin left for the United States last night accompanied by the cabinet secretary, Elyaqim Rubinstein; the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shim'on Sheves; and the chief of Military Intelligence, Major General Uri Sagi. Rabin had hoped to meet the delegation at the airport as it returned from Tunis, but he missed them; however, his adviser, Jacques Neriya, is flying directly from Tunis to Washington.

Before leaving, Rabin told a reporter he is not disappointed with the failure of the Tunis talks. He again described the Hebron massacre as the crossing of a red line, and he acknowledged that it would take some time for the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table. He hinted that Israel was willing to make concessions, but not if they contradicted the Declaration of Principles.

Next month, Yasir 'Arafat is going to Moscow at the invitation of President Yeltsin. The new activism of Russia in Middle East diplomacy is causing concern in Israel because it is no longer coordinated with the United States. In Jerusalem, there is a suspicion that the PLO is trying to play off Russia against the United States, as it did during the Cold War. 'Arafat may have gotten the idea that he can get more out of the Russians than out of the Americans, and this could have contributed to the failure of yesterday's talks. [end recording]

Peres Interviewed on Status of Talks With PLO

TA1503072094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Will Israel be ready to accede in any manner whatsoever to one or several of the demands raised yesterday by Yasir 'Arafat in order to persuade him to return to the negotiations table?

[Peres] Look, I think the best way to conduct negotiations is not by constantly acceding to demands but rather by sitting down together to examine ideas. The problem is not whether to accept the PLO demands. The problem is the degree to which the PLO's proposals are effective. For example, even had an multinational force been stationed in Hebron, it is doubtful that it would have been capable of preventing the catastrophe that took place. Therefore, one has to search for ways to prevent the recurrence of such events.

[Zissowitz] Such as the outlawing of the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements, for example?

[Peres] That definitely constitutes one measure, but it is not the only one. We are taking the entire issue very seriously, without any connection to the PLO's demands.

[Zissowitz] Sir, keeping that in mind, are you disappointed that the PLO has failed to respond to Israel's recent steps, even after these movements have been banned and their most radical activists disarmed and interrogated by the police?

[Peres] Look, the word disappointment does not appear in my dictionary. I will be very sorry if the Palestinians continue to put off the resumption of the negotiations, considering that they are pressuring us to meet the timetable, especially with regard to wrapping up the negotiations; however, as the Greek saying goes: No one can tell you how long it takes to walk to town if they do not know when you started or how fast you are walking.

[Zissowitz] I understand that the steps recently taken by the government, such as outlawing these movements and interrogating their leaders, were designed to placate Yasir 'Arafat and....

[Peres, interrupting] No. These steps were taken to preclude the recurrence of such catastrophes. We are not engaged in placating anyone. We are dealing with practicalities. We would have taken these steps even if we were not negotiating with 'Arafat. This makes no real difference. These are practical issues, and in this case, I

believe it is in the interests of everyone, both Jews and Arabs, that people do not shoot worshipers in the back, be they Jewish or Muslim.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, do the disappointing results of yesterday's meetings in Tunis mean that the talks will stop or will the dialogue continue on other tracks?

[Peres] I do not think that the dialogue has been broken off. Look, people are a bit confused about the negotiations. Let me explain what is being discussed with regard to each party. With the United States, the PLO is mainly negotiating about the impending Security Council resolution. The United States has a problem. It has promised not to change the status quo with regard to Jerusalem. Moreover, the autonomy agreement stipulates that Jerusalem remains outside of its framework. On the other hand, the United States does not want to torpedo the Security Council's resolutions. The Americans say they are prepared to either support the proposed resolution or abstain on condition that the PLO returns to the talks. In other words, the negotiations between the PLO and the United States center around the Security Council. Personally speaking, I believe that the PLO is giving too much importance to the Security Council resolutions. We have seen that Security Council resolutions have not changed the situation in Bosnia or Angola, Somalia, or here. That is one thing.

Now, the PLO and Israel are discussing three separate issues. First is the conclusion of the negotiations on the Gaza Strip and Jericho. We have concluded most of them, and we still need a little bit of time to wrap up the remaining details.

[Zissowitz] Will we meet the schedule?

[Peres] Look, it depends when we start. Two weeks have already been wasted. That is what I am saying.

[Zissowitz] Is there still a possibility of completing the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment by mid-April?

[Peres] That possibility is gradually slipping away because Pesach is almost here. Let us assume that we start negotiating next week. We would only have a very short week, because the Pesach holiday starts in the middle. There are also Muslim holidays. So if we do not start work very soon, more time will be wasted. Israel is telling the Palestinians that the best and most impressive thing that can happen between our two peoples is to transform the mountains of agreements and declarations into a new reality. Constantly making additional declarations will not help. I am convinced that the moment the Palestinians start managing their own affairs, everyone will see a real change in the situation with regard to both Arabs and Jews.

[Zissowitz] Do you feel that Yasir 'Arafat is trying to exploit the aftermath of the Hebron massacre in order to try to extort concessions from Israel that we had rejected earlier in Oslo?

[Peres] I do not like such expressions, which are more suitable for newspaper headlines. I must use more moderate language. In order to complete the picture, I would merely like to add that there is a third issue: What should be done in the wake of the Hebron massacre? We are not denying that the Hebron massacre brought home the conclusion on the need to take steps. These measures, however, must be logical, effective, and within the framework of our capabilities—and I am also talking about legal constraints, as we cannot just take arbitrary steps. Therefore, we are asking the Palestinians to sit down together with us in order to discuss the agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as well as the aftermath of the Hebron massacre. Let us have an open exchange of views. One cannot negotiate by fax or in separate meetings.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Foreign Minister, with your permission, I would like to ask you one more small question. After the massacre, Furayh Abu-Middayn, one of the senior PLO officials in the Gaza Strip, was quoted by TIME magazine as saying that if the Palestinian police had been operating at the time of the massacre, the Palestinians would have entered the settlements and killed at least 100 people. We will not sit quietly, he said.

[Peres] That is a thuggish statement of which there is no shortage in the Middle East.

[Zissowitz] But he is considered one of the most moderate of the PLO leaders.

[Peres] I am not talking about the man but about the statement he made. That kind of language is intolerable, and if anyone tries to carry out such actions, he will encounter all the necessary resistance. I suggest that we quote people a bit less. The history of the Middle East is so full of words and so void of actions. Everyone is constantly quoting somebody else. A lot of people in our region tend to go off at the mouth, but they are not the ones who decide things. We need less talk and declarations and more actions to change the reality on the ground.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres.

[In a report on an interview on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 15 March, correspondent David Ze'ev reports that Foreign Minister Peres said "he believes Prime Minister Rabin's meeting with President Clinton in Washington will be a push in the right direction with the peace talks" and that "while no agreement was reached in consultations between Israeli officials and PLO leaders in Tunis, the fact that they took place at all is a positive sign."]

Officials Deny Knowledge of Date for Resuming Talks

TA1303163894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Officials in Jerusalem asserted that they knew nothing about a specific date for the resumption of the

talks with the PLO. This was what officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

This follows reports from Palestinian sources that the talks would apparently resume next Monday, 21 March, in Washington. [passage omitted]

Gaza PLO Leaders Meet With Labor Members

TA1503111894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Four members of the PLO leadership in the Gaza Strip met with Labor faction members at the Knesset in Jerusalem this morning and demanded that settlements in Gaza be dismantled. Sufyan Abu-Zayda, one of the delegation members and Fatah spokesman in the Gaza Strip, said that the delegation's main message was that the settlements constitute an obstacle to peace. Another delegation member, Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, said that the leadership in Gaza believes in the peace process and is committed to it. 'Abd-al-Raziq was jailed for 21 years for having participated in setting a booby- trapped car in Rishon Leziyyon. He said that he and his friends have now changed their positions in the wake of the peace process.

The delegation members complained that after the Hebron massacre, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units entered narrow alleys in Gaza and engaged in unnecessary confrontations instead of restraining themselves in the face of the local residents' expressions of grief. According to the four PLO leaders, some of the clashes were with children, some of whom were fired upon from a distance of 200 meters.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 15 March adds that Abu-Zayda "said that the delegation's meeting with the Labor members was approved by 'Arafat and that he will brief 'Arafat about it."]

Eight Labor faction members participated in the meeting. Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Katz insisted that the Palestinians should not take advantage of the Hebron massacre to add demands to the Declaration of Principles. MK Ya'el Dayan agreed that settlements in densely populated areas of Gaza should be evacuated. MK Dalya Itzik said she regrets the fact that there is no peace camp in the Palestinian street similar to Peace Now in Israel.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset speaker refused a request from the right-wing factions to prevent the PLO delegation members from entering the Knesset. National Religious Party MK Yitzhaq Levi complained to the House Committee about the fact that this delegation was allowed into the Knesset while the wives of the jailed Kakh members were barred from doing so yesterday. This afternoon, the Knesset House Committee will discuss complaints in this regard raised by MK Levi and other right-wing MK's.

Labor, SHAS Parties Initial Coalition Agreement

TA1403205894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Knesset Member Arye Der'i a short time ago initialed a coalition agreement between Labor and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. During the signing ceremony, Der'i hoped that the government would expand further. Our party affairs correspondent Sefi Handler reports from the Knesset:

The Labor-SHAS coalition agreement was initialed about 15 minutes ago. Why was a full agreement not signed? Because SHAS is waiting for Knesset approval of the Meat Law, which could take all night. Prime Minister Rabin is due to leave for the United States at 0100 [2300 GMT] and he wanted to prevent the opposition from filibustering the bill. It was therefore decided to initial the agreement first, and wait for Rabin's return home for the full signing, since by then the institutions of both parties will have approved it. This is what Prime Minister Rabin had to say after signing the accord.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am happy that we agreed on a framework for a coalition agreement with SHAS. We initialed it tonight because it will go into effect only following two more stages. The first stage is approval by Labor institutions and SHAS Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef—as long as they have not approved the document, it is an initialed framework—and after that it will be presented for Knesset approval. [end recording]

At the signing ceremony, SHAS leader Arye Der'i hoped that the coalition would continue to expand. Any faction interested in joining the coalition is welcome, he said.

The coalition accord states that the agreement and appendices signed between the two parties in 1992, on the eve of the government's establishment, would continue to be valid, except for the amendments to the basic law. It also stipulates that SHAS will receive the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Interior Ministry, portfolios although it is still not clear whether they will have one minister or two. SHAS has also been promised two deputy ministers, which also has to be decided between the prime minister and Der'i.

No-Confidence Motions by Opposition Rejected

TA1403122394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1130 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Knesset has rejected three motions of no confidence in the government. The vote was 56 to 42. During the debate, opposition parties sharply attacked the government for the orders to ban Kakh and Kahana Hay and for the recent closing of the Western Wall area to Jews during prayers. [passage omitted]

U.S. Reaction to Kakh Ban Seen as 'Lukewarm'

TA1503061394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Israeli sources in Washington have expressed disappointment with what they say was a lukewarm response by the State Department spokeswoman, Christine Shelly, on the Israel Government's decision to outlaw Kakh and Kahana Hay. She was quoted as saying the decision should be seen as part of the overall effort Israel is making to meet Palestinian security concerns. She also said the United States is considering whether to put Kakh and Kahana Hay on its list of terrorist sponsors. Christine Shelly told reporters yesterday that Kakh and Kahana Hay, on the basis of their words and actions, have advocated and engaged in terrorism. Shelly added that U.S. law had provisions for curtailing fund-raising for such groups in the United States.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 March, in a similar report, adds that "Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich told our correspondent Arye Golan that senior State Department officials had reacted very positively to the steps taken by the Israeli Government in the wake of the Hebron massacre."]

Update on Situation in Arrests of Kakh Extremists

TA1403181994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Five members of the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements are now in administrative detention. Two others have been arrested pending legal moves to hold them under administrative detention. However, Kakh leader Barukh Marzel, who heads the authorities' wanted list, remains at large. Summing up the situation is reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Currently in jail on a three-month administrative detention warrant are Shmu'el Ben-Yishay, Shmu'el Ben-Ya'aqov, Eyal Noqed, Bentziyon Gobstein, and No'am Federman, the spokesman for the Kakh movement. Kakh leader Barukh Marzel remains at large. He is the No. 1 wanted man at the moment, and his wife Sara told reporters today that she remains a declared Kakh activist and she taunted police to come and arrest her along with the wives of the other activists who are currently in administrative detention. Two people who are currently under arrest, but not in administrative detention are Barukh Ben-Yosef, a Kakh member, and Mikha'el Ben-Horin, a former Kakh member who is the self-styled president of the State of Judaea. Both these people must appear before a district court if they are going to be put in administrative detention. Ben-Horin appeared at the Nazareth District Court today. He was kept under arrest until next Sunday, when the court will decide whether in fact he will be put in administrative detention. Ben-Yosef is due to appear before the Jerusalem District Court tomorrow with regard to his case.

Another development today was the questioning by police of Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron and his wife on charges that they had been involved in various disturbances several months ago in Hebron. Levinger is due to appear tomorrow in court to answer police charges. That is the situation at the moment. Police say that other arrests could well come in the days ahead but they are keeping very quiet on who it may be and where the arrests may take place.

More Israeli Arabs Permitted To Visit Syria

TA1103140694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Another delegation of Israeli Arabs may soon leave for Syria. The delegation will be headed by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Syrian foreign minister approved the delegation's arrival; however, the delegation preferred to put off its departure to Damascus in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

Our correspondent's inquiries revealed that immediately after Basil al-Asad's death was reported in the media, Dr. al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, sent a letter to Nayif Hawatimah in Damascus requesting permission to send a delegation to offer condolences on behalf of the Galilee Arabs. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi also specified the names of the proposed members of the delegation.

One 'Terrorist' Killed; One Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA1503113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] One terrorist was shot dead and another seriously wounded in Bayt Lahiyah in the Gaza Strip during a firefight between terrorists and the security forces. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that shots were fired at a security forces vehicle in the Bayt Lahiyah area a short time ago. The soldiers returned the fire, killing the terrorist and seriously wounded his comrade.

Our correspondent adds that the security forces captured two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives last night during an initiated operation in Gaza's Rimal and al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhoods.

Impact of Hebron Massacre on Society Viewed

TA1103200494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 94 pp 1, 31

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a: "Goldstein's Victory"]

[Text] Sitting somewhere in hell's nether regions, if hell has any, Dr. Barukh Goldstein is looking down on the world and laughing. His personal operation has succeeded beyond all expectations.

The bullets he fired in Hebron kindled a fire in the Israeli-Arab sector. He dreamed to prove that Yafo is Hebron. And so is Rahat. And Shefar'am. The Muslim world is also on fire. The fire is threatening peace, security, and the country's inner strength. You are now a shahid [Arabic for martyr], Goldstein. Our own shahid. How nice for you.

A tree alley leading nowhere was once planted behind the grocery store at the Qiryat Arba' entrance. It was named the Kahana Alley. Beyond the edge of the planted area was where your temporary grave was dug yesterday. All the village drunks and junkies will come to carouse around the grave at night, dancing and singing Blessed Be Messiah, Blessed Be He, until one of two things happens: Either you will be moved to the Jewish cemetery in the heart of Hebron, or Qiryat Arba' will be moved away.

Do you get it, Barukh?

They had heavy rains there yesterday, Barukh, and the rain obliterated the last traces of Purim makeup off the children's faces. Purim is over, and it left behind heaps of empty bottles, a headache, and grief. The Army has clamped a closure on Qiryat Arba'. The closure is rubbish, of course. We can easily drive nuts any poor soldier dazed by the many orders he has received. But the feeling of being blackballed is intolerable. Sodom and Gomorrah they call us. We, Kahanists, couldn't care less, but we feel awkward about the neighbors.

Yesterday the government decided to set up a state commission of inquiry. Rabin is angry. The Army is sweating buckets. The Army will try to blame you for everything: You came, shot, killed, were killed. But other charges will be brought forward all around. The right wing will try to argue that you did not just kill. That there were reasons. That there was a climate. That the government is to blame. Because in Israel, a man is never responsible for his acts: not for the Stock Exchange, not for the murder of a taxi driver, and definitely not for a mosque murder.

The media will suspect that the Army is tampering with the evidence. Proof: On Saturday, soldiers were brought in to scrub off all traces of the event in the cave. Proof: No one, except uniformed Army personnel, has seen the place to this very day. No one has been given official permission to talk to the soldiers who were on spot, no one but their commanders. Versions given out by the Army elevate you to Rambo's pedestal. Your single gun has killed a thousand people. You? It could be true, but it is unconvincing.

The Shin Bet, the Army, possibly the prime minister and defense minister will be asked by the commission to explain why we were permitted to do as we liked in Hebron, why we were permitted to wear uniforms, exercise authority, go unpunished. We will stand there as the guardians of enlightened justice and democracy. Administrative detention? Being discharged from the Army without a trial? Banishment? They are nothing. Dreifus will look silly compared to Marzel, and No'am Federman will be Emile Zola. Will you laugh!

At a certain point the commission will discover that we are just the tip of the iceberg. The rules of the game should be changed drastically. Not only in Qiryat Arba', throughout the territories. Before the state hands powers over to the PLO, it needs to recoup its powers from the settlers. Otherwise it will have nothing to hand over. How can a 20-year reality be changed now? Better give up the agreement.

Didn't Rabbi Kahana always say that the worse it gets, the better? He said it and you made it true. You set the Israeli Arabs and Jews against each other. That is good. You sowed dissension among Jews. That is wonderful. Now the entire settler population is identified with Rabbi Kahana.

You wiped out their coexistence illusion. They arranged a make-believe coexistence in the Cave of the Patriarchs, and you shot it to death. Very good. And you caused a lot of rational, decent Israelis to look at the bodies on television and say: Kudos to you. No more spilling of Jewish blood. And you did it, just you.

Therefore, we drink to your death, Goldstein. Rabbi Kahana said a little Kahanist hides inside each of us. Your death was his resurrection.

Minister Denies Plans To Reshuffle Cabinet

PM1403164494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Mar 94 p4

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has denied that there was any intention to reshuffle Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's cabinet now or even after 'Id al-Fitr [13 March]. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that he knew nothing about the reports about a possible imminent reshuffle of the Jordanian cabinet. He said that the cabinet as a whole still has not completed implementation of the program passed by parliament around the end of last year.

Companies Aim To Restore Gulf Market Share

NC1203112394 Paris AFP in English 0113 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, March 12 (AFP)—Jordan is trying to re-enter lucrative Gulf markets after more than three years of estrangement caused by its alleged support for Iraq against Kuwait, officials said on Friday [11 March].

More than 20 Jordanian companies will display clothes, furniture, medicine and other products at an international exhibition in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month, they said.

"The participation in this fair and other fairs is aimed at restoring Jordanian manufacturers' share of the Gulf market to the pre-Gulf crisis level," a spokesman for the participating companies said in a statement.

"These non-traditional markets require a different set of marketing and manufacturing standards and our manufacturers are trying to meet them. In terms of quality and service, most companies have undergone restructuring while revamping their marketing practices to face new challenges."

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states were among the biggest markets for Jordanian products before they halted dealing over its alleged sympathy with Iraq. Amman has denied backing Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and has tried to several times to restore links but has been rebuffed.

The six members—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE—were also the main financial backers of Jordan before the war, providing more than 12 billion dollars in aid and billions more in remittances.

A suspension of Gulf aid aggravated Jordan's economic problems, which include a debt of around eight billion dollars.

The Jordan Trade Association, the country's main export promoter representing more than 80 firms, is spearheading the participation in the March 16-20 fair in Dubai, the organisers, al-Fajir company, said.

New Coalition To Combat Anti-Islamic 'Designs'

JN1203085594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Mariam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Islamists, and pan-Arab nationalists, long at loggerheads, are unifying their ranks following last month's attack on the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron and the subsequent attack on a Maronite church in Lebanon.

"The February events were not the only reason why the front, which is a coalition of two parties, was formed but it was the final push," said the head of the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF), Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan.

Earlier this week the IAF and a relatively new and obscure political party, the National Action Front (NAF), announced that they were "'coalition partners' resisting Zionist designs and new world order strategies to disrupt the Middle Eastern region." The NAF comprises mostly hardline pan-Arab nationalists many of whom were outlawed in Jordan before democratic reforms were introduced.

"One of our main aims," said Mr. al-Farhan, "is to make clear that there is no real contradiction between Islam and the essence of Western civilisation. These are superficial differences which are being played up by those who think they will benefit from a confrontation."

"There is an obvious effort to blacken the face of the Arabs and the Muslims in the world and our coalition aims at fighting this campaign of hatred against Islam and the Arab people," he added.

The coalition is open "to all those parties and groups which wish to join," said an IAF member Thursday. While no clear "strategies" to counter the "anti-Islamic and Arab propaganda" had been drawn up as of yet, "preparatory meetings were" in the making, according to IAF officials.

None of the NAF officials could be reached for comment.

The coalition joins the mostly secular pan-Arab activists and the largest Islamic party in Jordan. A source close to the groups said that the recent attempts to smudge the "image of Arabs in the West" had contributed to the formation of the coalition.

"The World Trade Center affair, the unfair treatment of the accused and the verdict against them was one of the main points of concern, but this is one of many anti-Arab smear campaigns that we want to counter," said the source.

The charge that two Libyans blew up a Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, the continued sanctions against Iraq, the "media campaigns" against Arab and Muslim governments in Sudan and Somalia, as well as recent moves by the French authorities to curb the

movement of Arabs living in France were all mentioned as international issues that led to the forming of the coalition, said the source close to the NAF. The NAF was the 21st party to receive official licensing in Jordan this January.

IAF Leader Denies Link to al-Karak Weapons Cache

JN1303095194 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 12-13 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has denied any link between the Islamic movement and the weapons and explosives that the newspapers said were found recently by the security forces in a village in al-Karak Governorate.

Answering a question by AKHIR KHABAR on the link between the weapons and the Muslim Brotherhood, Dr. al-Farhan said: You can ask the Muslim Brotherhood about this.

But, he added: This is silly, making connections between what is taking place and the Islamic movement. Those who fight to protect the nation's unity do not seek to divide it from within.

He said: We have not ruled out the involvement of the Mosad [Israeli intelligence service] or the anti-Islamic forces, which are trying to shake our national unity and undermine the bridges of confidence on which basis we have been serving the homeland and nation for decades.

He also said: We spoke to officials and explained our open position toward these issues. Everyone knows the movement's Islamic, nationalist, and pan-Arab positions.

Recent press reports on the al-Karak weapons cache cited a link between the Islamic Centers Society, one of the most important Muslim Brotherhood establishments, and the weapons that were discovered.

Russian, French Initiatives for Peace Viewed

JN1203131894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 13

[Editorial: "We Welcome Russian Initiative, Condemn French Initiative, But..."]

[Text] The Russian initiative to reconvene the Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East coincided with a French initiative, represented by the French-Israeli military cooperation pact, signed by the French defense minister not far from the spot still dripping with the blood of the martyrs of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

Although the Russian initiative appears to be positive and to be aimed at breaking the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, this initiative should not make us believe that Russia, which attended the first Madrid conference under the umbrella of the Soviet Union that was then passing away, can now assume a leading role in events under its current circumstances, which are no better than those prevailing when it attended the first conference in Madrid.

As for the French initiative, it is not only very bad because of its timing, but also because of its contents, which activate military relations with Israel—relations that have been nearly severed since the aggression in 1967.

Contrary to the position expected from Paris, in light of its exclusion from negotiations and from its previous effective role in reaching an agreement—the same as the case with Europe, China, and Japan—we see France courting Tel Aviv and concluding a military pact for research and development instead of seeking to foster relations with the Arab parties to the negotiations, which are besieged by Israeli intransigence and U.S. pressure. This pact implies encouragement for Israel to continue the expansionist, Zionist, and aggressive policy.

We view the Russian initiative positively, in spite of the possible intentions and circumstances that serve Moscow's objectives of seeking more Western assistance and restoring U.S. political support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which has begun to falter. As much as we are disturbed by the negative French initiative, we know that the U.S. Administration is the main party responsible for the crisis in the negotiations. It is a result of the full and unlimited U.S. support for Israel and because the United States prevents the international community from carrying out any positive role in implementing the resolutions of the international community or forcing Israel to heed the UN resolutions on our rights in Palestine and the Arab territories occupied after the 1967 aggression.

We, as well as the entire international community, know that Washington monopolized the role of the sole power able to influence international events in general and our negotiations with Israel in particular. We also know that any failure or slowness in these negotiations and any Zionist threat to world security and peace in this region is the full responsibility of the United States. In spite of this belief, which many people share with us, we welcome the positive Russian initiative, and condemn the negative French initiative launched at this delicate time.

Paper Examines U.S., Russian Stances on Hebron

JN1203123394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "U.S. Double Standards"]

[Text] While the United States brings pressure to bear on the PLO to resume the peace negotiations in the wake of the Hebron massacre, it threatens to use its veto to obstruct any effective UN Security Council resolution that will protect the Palestinian people from the occupation and the terrorism of the Israeli Army and settlers.

This contradictory stand once again shows the U.S. double-standard in its approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The results of the official investigation clearly point to the direct or indirect involvement of the Israeli Army, if not the government and its prime minister, in this act of killing and terrorism. Thus, the talk about peace and the resumption of the peace process in accordance with the previous bases is just an attempt to mark time and to cushion the great shock brought about by the massacre of the worshipers in the blessed al-Ibrahimi Mosque on the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

By procrastinating and obstructing the passage of a UN resolution condemning the massacre and adopting a mechanism to prevent its recurrence, the United States has exposed its desperate attempt to waste time and cover up for the crime and its perpetrators. It is an attempt by the United States to shirk its responsibility toward what happened. Its shy stands on settlements and settlers, and the question of supplying them with money and weapons are well known. It is not strange that the principal perpetrator of the crime is a U.S. citizen who was brought up in Brooklyn and was nurtured on terrorism and racism there like many other Jewish terrorists.

It goes without saying that the stand adopted by Russia, which is the second cosponsor of the peace conference, and the efforts it has exerted, irrespective of their motives and objectives, deserve praise. The same applies to the European stand, which deserves to be emulated by Washington in an effort by the international community and international legitimacy to restore Palestinian rights and land to their legitimate owners and end the injustice, trials, and terrorism from which the Palestinian people have been suffering for so long.

Paper Attacks 'Arbitrary' U.S. Policies at UN

JN1203112594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Arbitrariness at the Security Council"]

[Text] The United States is continuing its arbitrary policies and showing its disdain for the Arab nation through the farce of consultations that the UN Security Council has been carrying out for the last two weeks over the massacre of the age committed by the Zionist gangs in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

When we say the Security Council, we in fact mean the U.S. Administration that has imposed its full control and hegemony over the international organization since the Gulf crisis in 1990 and the subsequent host of unjust resolutions adopted, in record time, against fraternal Iraq. The Iraqi people are still suffering from the effects of these unjust and unprecedented resolutions even though their alleged justifications are over.

Within less than two weeks, the Security Council adopted some 13 resolutions, including a resolution that allowed the launching of a brutal aggression against Iraq, in addition to the imposition of an all-out siege. On the other hand, the council has spent two full weeks on consultations on the most brutal and unprecedented massacre in contemporary history. These consultations have been subject to strange U.S. bargaining. This bargaining has once again shown the hypocrisy, double-standards, and blatant contradictions in U.S. political behavior. It has exposed the allegations about eagerness to implement international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The final straw in this U.S. bargaining was the humiliating condition set by Christopher in his telephone contact with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat last Thursday. Christopher emphasized his administration's position, which forms a link between any proposed international resolution condemning the massacre and the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, despite the fact that the U.S. position on the draft resolution is not far from what Israeli wants. Washington insists on a diluted resolution that does not contain any serious measures to deter the Israelis from their repressive policy in the occupied Arab territories.

We have never had a good opinion of U.S. intentions toward our just Arab causes. We have never ignored the nature of the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, which has continued for decades, or the unlimited U.S. support for Zionist aggressiveness against the Arab nation. We are fully aware that restoring respect and dignity to this nation cannot be realized through the emotions of the United States, because politics and interests do not know emotions. There is no alternative for Arab solidarity, even the minimum of this solidarity.

Lebanese Forces' Ja'ja' on Security Situation

PM1503110094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 2

[Telephone interview with Dr. Samir Ja'ja', leader of the Lebanese Forces, in Ghidras by unidentified correspondent in Beirut on 11 March]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] How is the situation today?

[Ja'ja'] Instead of quoting our sources, come to us and see for yourself, then you can write about what you are going to see all the way to my residence in Ghidras.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you mean that there are roadblocks?

[Ja'ja'] The issue is not the number of roadblocks or the troops, but the manner in which they are deployed along the roads leading to Ghidras. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Have you contacted His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi?

[Ja'ja'] No, I have not contacted him so far. He was busy yesterday with the breakfast banquet he gave in B'abda Palace.

[AL-HAYAH] And why have you not contacted him today (yesterday) [11 March]?

[Ja'ja'] We do not want to disturb his excellency with this issue. We are leaving him to concentrate on the main issue, that is the Middle East negotiations.

[AL-HAYAH] And with the Army command?

[Ja'ja'] There are no contacts with the command. The contacts are made with some authoritative officers in the area. They reply that this presence lies within security deployments in the provinces. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The Army has been deployed in Ghidras for a long time.

[Ja'ja'] The nearest point to Ghidras was less than a kilometer away. This point was concealed and not on the main road. We asked the Army command at the time about this point's task. We were told that its job was to supervise the valley.

[AL-HAYAH] And what is happening now?

[Ja'ja'] The Army is deployed in five directions: a point is set up in each direction. There is a point on the road leading to here.

[AL-HAYAH] It is said that the measures include all areas, and that security units have lists of suspects involved in the bombing incidents.

[Ja'ja'] Fine. Let them come and tell us who they are, and I am prepared to hand them over. Why overtake events when the investigation is under way? [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] It is reported that they have lists of suspects involved in security incidents, including an attempt on the president's life, and that the accusation is leveled at Raji 'Abdu, nicknamed the "captain."

[Ja'ja'] Raji 'Abdu is not accused in the case concerning his excellency the president. He was accused of bombing the Rumyah barracks. Anyhow, his case is now in the hands of the Lebanese judiciary. When a verdict is passed and it becomes clear whether he has any link, they will see whether or not we are going to hand him over. [passage omitted]

Former Prime Minister Interviewed on Politics

Analyzes Regional Events

PM1103094994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 94 p 7

[First installment of interview with former Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn by Bisharah Shirbil in France; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] Numerous developments have taken place in Lebanon and the region since the liberation war: An authority formed as a result of the al-Ta'if accord has strengthened, governments have been formed, elections have been held, and a treaty has been concluded with Syria, which is responsible for Lebanon's future if it enters the peace process, as it defines the future features of the region. How do you view Lebanon's position?

['Awn] Lebanon does not exist. Lebanon today represents a differential in the Syrian-Israeli equation. It has surrendered itself to Syria and can no longer sign or reject anything. It is completely silent. The Lebanese negotiator's position has been humanly disgraceful, standing like a dummy in front of the Israeli negotiator. It cannot discuss anything, or say yes or no. So it has become the object of ridicule. The proper thing is for the Lebanese to suspend their participation in the negotiations so that Syrian negotiations can advance. It is not a vacation in Washington. Let them wait for Damascus' signal to return. I say that Lebanon's participation does not mean it exists. It only exists as a differential variable between the Syrian view and Israeli view of Lebanon. It is regrettable for us to become a margin in an equation, not a personality in its own right. This is what I meant before when I said that we should sit at—not on—the negotiating table [as published], and I called for a three-sided, not two-sided table, that is a table at which Lebanon, Syria, and Israel would sit and through which Lebanon could talk about its right. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] You reject what you call Syrian occupation of Lebanon and yet accept what the Arabs consider Jewish occupation of Palestine.

['Awn] No. I reject the Israeli occupation. But is the Jew present in Israel not entitled to set up his entity or not? Is Palestine not his territory or not? Your will tell me that he is an immigrant and a stranger. But I ask you: When have human societies ever been fixed? Are there not ten times more Arabs in the United States than Israelis in

Palestine? Here, in France, there are some 3 million people of Algerian origin. Human societies are not fixed ethnically or religiously.

[Shirbil] But ethnic and Arab communities in France or the United States do not set up separate entities hostile toward their environment.

['Awn] Yes, there are entities causing problems. But their members enjoy the civil and political rights enjoyed by the Americans or the French. There is no discrimination in the law. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] What is your expectation as regards the future of fundamentalism?

['Awn] It will inevitably come to power in Islamic states, but it will fall after reaching power. Then a reexamination will be conducted from within Islam.

[Shirbil] Did you hope that fundamentalism would assume power in Algeria?

['Awn] I do not wish that to happen, but they will come to power. It is a natural, historic rule. It has nothing to do with whether or not I wish that to happen. I am not a fundamentalist, and I reject fundamentalism openly. However, I expect them to come to power. Then they will fail because they make many promises of solutions to the problems. But they are primitive solutions which will complicate difficult problems. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] How can the fundamentalist tendencies which you expect to come to power influence Lebanon?

['Awn] We are in the region, and certainly fundamentalism will influence Lebanon. We have people who support fundamentalism and consider it a hope for a reasonable solution.

[Shirbil] You cannot say that there is a sweeping fundamentalist tendency in Lebanon. It is one of the parties...

['Awn] Lebanon is disorganized demographically. There is horrific population growth. A sizable proportion of Lebanese used to emigrate, but this is not possible now. The Lebanese abroad cannot find jobs, and they want to return to Lebanon. Western societies are full of unemployed people. France has 4 million of them, and the United States 23 million. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Can the growing fundamentalist tide lead to a coexistence crisis in Lebanon, or does the crisis already exist?

['Awn] A coexistence crisis exists in most pluralistic societies. But when there is a national authority and dialogue over the issue, problems will be solved. It is always possible to find solutions for them. But what happened in Lebanon was that, as a result of existing pressures caused by coexistence and pluralism, some external parties intervened and stability was undermined and Lebanon taken over by Syria. This is in addition to the Israeli occupation in the south. Every occupier says the other occupier is the cause of its presence. But both are occupiers: an enemy occupation and a brotherly occupation, as they say. Their effects on citizens are the same. There is social pressure in a country that is pluralistic ethnically, religiously, and culturally. Anyone who says otherwise is lying to himself. Freedom and equality are the foundation of the relationship among the Lebanese. Equality should be through opportunities, not rights, because rights necessitate justice, and justice necessitates distinguishing between people: everyone should be rewarded on the basis of his competence. [sentence as published]

If a section of the Lebanese does not accept that, a referendum should be held—a referendum on political ideas. So if the idea is accepted, it should be accepted with all its results. And if it is rejected, it should be rejected with all its results. On that basis, if unification is not accepted on the basis of a constitution, equality, and everyone's rights and duties, federalism becomes a solution. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] The events witnessed in pluralistic states that include sectarian and ethnic...

['Awn, interrupting] Let us talk freely and very openly. The ball of unification is in the Lebanese Muslims' court. If they have any courage, let them embark on unification within not 'Awn's concepts but universal concepts, because these concepts are not mine.

[Shirbil] As though your plan is outside...

['Awn] Let them adopt the Bosnia plan.

[Shirbil] Which is?

['Awn] A federation and a confederation like the one signed between the Croats and the Bosnians. This or that.

[Shirbil] Is there anything else which you consider amiss?

['Awn] The present situation is not under control. There are no state structures to exercise powers and assume responsibilities at all levels. Because the state is based on excesses. The head of state said that General 'Awn left Lebanon following an agreement with him and with several other parties. Do you imagine that they hit me by aircraft under an agreement with me. And that they stripped me of my rights in the military establishment under an agreement with me. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Do you support the resistance against the Israeli occupation in the south?

['Awn] I support the resistance in every sense of the word. However, I would to explain one point: At the negotiations held in Washington Israel clearly announced that it does not want a single inch of Lebanese territory or a drop of water in return for border security. Israel says that it wants to withdraw in return for border security and joining the peace process, which is supported by the Arab states and on the basis of which

they are negotiating. So why the resistance now? I should ask this resistance about its links. You should not ask me whether or not I support the resistance. The continuation of the resistance forced Israel to stay and forced the parties using Israel's presence as an excuse to stay. If Syria's value increases as a result of the resistance, who is going to pay the price? Will Israel pay Syria from Israel, or will the resistance pay the price if a solution is secured? [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Has anyone invited you to return to Lebanon?

['Awn] There are numerous offers. There are open invitations from Nabih Birri, Eilie al-Farzali, and Eilie Hubayqah.

[Shirbil] Do you believe your security is not guaranteed?

['Awn] Nothing is guaranteed in Lebanon. Tell me any major crime whose clues have been unraveled.

[Shirbil] Will your remain as an oppositionist...

['Awn] More than an oppositionist. I am not an oppositionist. I am a resister. Oppositionists recognize the regime and oppose it. I do not recognize the present regime, which is why I am resisting. Resistance does not necessarily mean carrying a gun. [passage omitted]

Assesses Country's Situation

PM1103164094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Second and final installment of interview with former Prime Minister Gen. Michel 'Awn by Bisharah Shirbil in France; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] How does General 'Awn feel five years after the liberation war? And has his assessment of the bitter experience the Lebanese went through changed? What has changed since that war?

['Awn] Without doubt, the atmosphere of the general crisis Lebanon went through has not changed. However, big changes have occurred inside the Lebanese people, in their awareness of the problem and view of the future, that is if they can participate in achieving this future. They can now determine their choices clearly, whether inside the country, with neighbors, or with the world. This view is now very clear, because the liberation war has removed all the masks from the faces of regional and international players and accentuated the realities through the experience which the Lebanese people witnessed after 13 October 1990. There are no longer false slogans that can be sanctioned in Lebanon, nor international stances that deceive citizens. The Lebanese now know when a major international authority is lying and when he is telling the truth. They can tell whether a regional authority is really an enemy of their traditional enemy or a friend of his, pretending to be their friend merely to implement certain schemes. The Lebanese people are now very vigilant, and their experience—however harsh—is useful with regard to future choices. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Are you preparing for a new liberation war? Assuming you arrived in Lebanon now, would you launch a new liberation war?

['Awn] The situation is different now. We are in a pressing regional situation. Lebanon is occupied. Elements should be different....

[Shirbil] As resistance is the principle, if you consider Lebanon occupied, then a new liberation war is a natural outcome....

['Awn] Of course. But that depends on the balance of power. Lebanon is now in an unstable position, but this position does not prompt armed resistance, because there is regional and international pressure on the region. They do not want anything to sabotage the peace process. Lebanon has now been handed over to others, and I am out of the game. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Are there any political messages between you and the Syrians?

['Awn] Many of the visitors who deal with them offer me plans which I consider imperialist. And I conclude from them that the Syrians still have the mentality of the seventies.

[Shirbil] Did anyone bring you a real offer?

['Awn] I received many offers, but I do not believe they are serious as long as there are no direct contacts between me and them.

[Shirbil] Are you willing to deal with the Syrians if they open up to you?

['Awn] On one condition: One thing is not negotiable between me and them, and that is Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. Anything else can be discussed. The sovereignty and independence condition cannot be subject to interpretation.

[Shirbil] Those who support the Syrians in Lebanon say that the Syrian presence secures sovereignty and independence...

['Awn] Many people talk about modesty when they are themselves naked. [passage omitted]

Vatican Envoy: Church Bomb To Protest Israel Ties

NC1503072394 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] A pro-Vatican magazine has quoted a Vatican diplomat as saying that there is a possibility that the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church [on 27 February] was perpetrated to protest the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. The

Vatican diplomat revealed that the Holy See received signals in December that an attack against a Christian target in the Middle East was inevitable. He added: We feared attacks against Christian targets in the Middle East. He noted that the earliest signs of such a possibility emerged around Christmas, when the agreement between the Vatican and the State of Israel was signed.

Aborted Border Raid To Avenge Hebron Killings

TA1203173394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Excerpt] SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers captured a lot of equipment in a pre-dawn clash with Popular Front terrorists, in which two were killed and two captured. The commander of the area said the weapons included grenades and explosive charges. They also had leaflets saying they had come to avenge the Hebron massacre. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 12 March adds that "the leaflets also specified terms of negotiations, in which the terrorists had planned to involve the French ambassador in Israel."]

The commander added that there had been an increase of terrorist activity in south Lebanon, and the wave of terror had reached its peak.

The gang was on its way to an attack on one of the northern border settlements. SLA soldiers noticed the band near Har Dov. In an initial clash, one terrorist was wounded and captured and three others escaped. Later, one of them surrendered to UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]. The other two were killed after a chase. [passage omitted]

Papers Examine al-Asad Speech to 1948 Palestinians

JN1103094794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's View of Peace," AL-BA'TH says: During his meeting the day before yesterday with the 1948 Palestinians delegation, President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's view of a just and comprehensive peace. He also stressed that it was Syria which opened the doors to peace by accepting the U.S. initiative, on the basis of which the peace process started in Madrid.

The paper explains that Syria accepted the U.S. initiative because it was very clear and stipulated the implementation of UN resolutions, particularly 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace formula.

The paper says that in his speech the day before yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad explained that Syria seriously wants peace, while Israel only speaks about peace without making one step in that direction.

The paper notes that the Washington talks have confirmed Syria's serious desire to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region. This was confirmed by the questions which Syria raises for discussion. Syria emphasizes the substance, while Israel avoids it. Israel always raises questions that are very far from the peace process and that run contrary to the endeavor to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria will accept nothing short of implementing the UN resolutions, on which the peace process is based. It also notes what President al-Asad has stressed; that world developments will not force us to relinquish any of our rights.

The paper says the world is now fully aware of the details of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Consequently, this world now knows very well who wants and works for the genuine peace and those who work against it.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH urges the world community to play its presumed role and compel Israel to implement UN resolutions out of concern for the world's peace and security and in order to entrench the principle of international legitimacy.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: As he does every time he speaks about peace, the peace process, and the obstacles blocking the realization of the objectives of that process, President Hafiz al-Asad explained that the peace which the Arabs and Syria want is the just peace that is based on the UN Security Council resolutions stipulating complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the return of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

AL-THAWRAH says: This explanation, which President Hafiz al-Asad adds at this phase as a new confirmation of the firmness and clarity of Syria's position on the peace process, entails a specific message; the peace which Syria seeks is so clear that it does not need any explanation, as claimed by Israel, and that the obstacle facing the achievement of peace in the region lies in Israel's policy and positions.

The paper notes that despite the fact that the UN resolutions clearly stipulate that peace can be achieved through complete withdrawal, and despite the fact that the U.S. initiative was founded on this clear and logical explanation of the peace formula when it based the peace process and the achievement of its goals on the land-for-peace formula, the Israeli rulers still insist on specifying the meaning of the peace which Syria wants, although the world unanimously agrees that Syria's view of peace is fully compatible with the view of the international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH notes the innumerable pieces of evidence of Israel's rejection of peace, the most important of which can be seen in Israel's extortionist and impossible requests, in the studied aggressive escalation against Lebanon and its southern part, and in the programmed mass murders against the Palestinian Arab people.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the peace which the Arabs want and agree on is, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, a comprehensive and complete peace. Unless peace is comprehensive, there can be no peace.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: When he states the Syrian position on the peace process and stresses that the kind of peace we want is the complete and comprehensive peace, the peace of the brave that would return the land and the Palestinian people's rights and guarantee that each party gets what is rightfully his without humiliating the other party, Leader al-Asad is stressing the constants, the principles, and the firmness that govern the Syrian policy, which cannot—under any circumstance—bargain over or relinquish a grain of soil or national right.

AL-THAWRAH says: He who thinks that we are fighting the battle for peace from a weak position is mistaken. Syria is strong enough and it still holds the reins of the initiative. Our position, as stressed by President Hafiz al-Asad, is very strong and gives us confidence and assurance. We are advocating our rights and the world developments will not force us to retreat.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: When the nation puts its weight behind Syria, it is because it realizes that the Syrian position, under the leadership of President al-Asad, expresses the Arab dignity and consciousness and is the only guarantee for the return of pan-Arab rights.

Security Council Urged To Assume Responsibilities

JN1303192794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Sorrow and grief prevailed in the occupied Arab territories on the first day of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, and hearts were filled with pain and bitterness. This is because Israel was not content with the horrible Hebron massacre; it added to the many killed worshipers, who were praying to God at the Ibrahimi Mosque, at least 30 other martyrs, who were killed by the Israeli army's bullets, in addition to hundreds of wounded.

Yesterday, Israel, using anti-tank rockets, destroyed a number of houses in Dayr al-Balah, deployed large military forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cities, closed Jerusalem, denied worshipers access to the places of worship, and turned the entire occupied homeland into a large battlefield.

Meanwhile, and out of persistence in provoking our kinsfolk under the hateful occupation, new groups of Zionist settlers have headed for Hebron. All this is taking in front of the international community and the Security Council which failed to condemn Israel and end its criminal acts that conflict with UN principles, the Geneva agreements, and human rights.

It is strange that some parties in the international community are talking and clamoring about human right violations in many countries while at the same time they are turning a blind eye to the Israelis' crimes and the serious Hebron massacre which claimed the lives of more than 50 innocent Palestinian citizens.

Therefore, it seems that the policy of double standards continues to be the prevailing practice. This arbitrary policy, however, cannot make a stable and secure world that would be kept away from wars and threats. It is sufficient for us to examine the UN reports, the testimonies of UN observers, and the resolutions passed by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly since 1947 to clearly sense that the Zionist military organizations—and afterward Israel, which was recognized by many states in 1948 as an independent entity—have committed disgraceful massacres and crimes.

Some 46 years have passed since Israel's establishment and incorporation into the United Nations. However, Israel still flagrantly violates the UN principles. A crystal-clear example of this was the Hebron Mosque massacre. But, has Israel ever been punished? Has the international community championed its own principles and the values of justice? In an attempt to justify the international community's inefficiency, the powerful western states in the Security Council have claimed that Arabs reject peace with Israel. More than two years have passed since the Madrid conference convened; the Washington talks have entered their third year; and the Arab delegations have continuously frequented Washington without any result. Moreover, Syria submitted a document of principles, which the entire world regarded as a historic event because it contained positive, constructive, and balanced proposals. Israel, however, rejected this document because it provides for exchanging land for peace. Israel wants land first, in addition to Arab recognition of Israel and the relinquishment of their own lands and rights. In other words, Israel wants to entrench occupation, usurpation, and the policy of expulsions and aggression as a consistent attitude in the Middle East.

The international community should have strongly and firmly intervened to impose a just and comprehensive peace in the region. However, nothing has happened in this regard. This is because the international community has not yet gone beyond the phase of wishing that Israel would pursue the peace process. Everything is taking place as if Israel is above the international law and agreements. It is thus natural that the instincts of haughtiness and arrogance are overwhelming the Israeli rulers, so they reject peace, persist in the policy of killings, annihilation, and expulsions, and seriously pursue the policies of the old Nazis, knowing that these rulers have long claimed they were victims to Nazi policy.

The Middle East is still a powder keg. If this keg explodes, its repercussions will affect the region and the whole world. Now that the Middle East situation is serious, the United States has given priority to achieving a just and comprehensive solution on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States made an initiative which the Arabs accepted. But Israel has not yet accepted it. Israel will definitely not comply with this initiative if the two cosponsors of the peace process, along with the international community, do not intervene to rectify matters and consecrate the Security Council's principles and resolutions as the only basis for a just and comprehensive solution.

The question posed is: When will the international community move and assume its responsibilities, knowing that the Hebron massacre was a rare opportunity for this council to impose its authority and consecrate its principles?

Paper Urges Continuing Arab Boycott of Israel

JN0903080694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN speaks about the emotional speech President Hafiz al-Asad addressed to the masses of our people, in which he expressed thanks and gratitude for the sincere emotions they showed on the death of Basil.

TISHRIN Says: In his speech, President Hafiz al-Asad called for serious work in order to continue the march of construction and liberation within the framework of

deep-rooted and effective national unity. President al-Asad said: There is a lot to be accomplished and immense responsibility to carry out. Let us continue our march, armed with faith in God, and let us redouble our efforts. The people who believed in God, unified themselves, and resolved to regain their rights will surely regain them.

TISHRIN emphasizes that while engaged in the battle for just and comprehensive peace, Syria should mobilize all its capabilities and potentials, whether in the field of internal construction or in the field of unifying the Arab position and urging Arab brothers to rise up to a viable position, especially since the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has shown it is impossible to speak about peace in the Middle East without ending Israeli occupation and dismantling Zionist settlements.

The concessions offered by the Palestinian side and the involvement of some Arabs in discussing means of regional cooperation increased Israel's arrogance and aggressiveness. Furthermore, Israel went as far as propagating that it is possible to make peace in the Middle East without Syria and Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has repeatedly warned against deviating from Arab consensus and the principles of the peace process. Israel used the negotiations card with the Palestinian side in order to evade the peace requisites on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The result was a horrible massacre and more Israeli killing, sieges, and starving. At present, the occupied territories are subject to the ugliest forms of Zionist terrorism.

TISHRIN says this situation requires an all-out review of Arab policies in order to restore pan-Arab solidarity and continue the Arab boycott of Israel, until it accepts the principles of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and returns the Golan, south Lebanon, and all occupied territories.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria, now and in the future, will continue to be the same—no relinquishment of a grain of national soil or any of the nation's rights. Whether the negotiations continue for a long or a short time, the Syrian position will always be based on the aspirations of our Arab people and nation to restore the territories and the shrines, and build a shining future, away from the Israeli aggressive threats.

'Complete' Peace for 'Comprehensive' Withdrawal Urged

JN1403154394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before leaving for the United States, and in a new deceptive move, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that two extremist settler organizations in the occupied territories had been banned. The criminal murderer Baruch Goldstein, who committed the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, belonged to one of these organizations.

In fact, this measure will not convince anyone. The Zionist settlers are still in the heart of Hebron provoking Arab citizens. They were joined a few days ago by more extremists. Rabin has refused to evacuate them from the city despite demands made by some Israeli ministers. He also refused to touch the settlements or discuss their future within the framework of the self-rule talks. What is even more serious is the fact that Rabin is still holding contacts with the Zionist extremist movement, Tzomet, to make it join the government. The leader of that movement, former General Rafa'el Etan, is well known for his racist tendencies, hatred against the Arabs, and calls for expelling them by force from their homes and annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israel.

Rabin's government should have taken measures to restore confidence to the Washington talks, such as announcing its readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace and taking decisive deterrent measures against the settlers. Israel has done nothing of the sort. The Israeli Government has only disarmed two settlers and has not uttered one word on the future of the occupied territories.

If we review recent events we can see the extent of the Israeli officials' deception. In only one month, more than 30 people were killed by Israeli Army fire in the occupied territories. South Lebanon was the target of the most severe and savage land and air bombardment. As for the two Zionist organizations, Kakh and Kahana, whose activities were banned by Rabin, they have committed several crimes in the occupied territories in the past years. Rabin's ban is not different from his pledge not to use the U.S. loans for settlement activities. He allocated a large share of these loans—some $500 million, according to the U.S. State Department—to expand the settlements and arm the settlers and attract them with money and free housing to live in the occupied territories and terrorize the Arab citizens.

Restoring confidence to the Arab-Israeli talks can only be achieved through a public announcement by Rabin of his readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories and implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Syria has always spoken about its readiness for a complete peace in return for a comprehensive withdrawal. Has Rabin, or any other Israeli official, uttered the words "complete peace?" The Arabs have not heard this yet. What they heard from the Israelis in Washington and outside Washington was an endless series of security pretexts, as if Israel's security can only be realized by murdering and humiliating Arabs, confiscating their land and property, and expelling them from their homes.

The Middle East peace has its basic prerequisites which cannot be tampered with or avoided, foremost of which is recognition of the Arab rights and withdrawal from the

occupied territories. The Palestinian people have the right to enjoy freedom and dignity like all others peoples in the world. Lebanon also has the right to regain its southern part and its citizens in the south have the right to live a tranquil and peaceful life free from the daily Israeli bombardment. Syria has the right to regain the Golan Heights and the evacuees have the right to return to their homes and property. These are the conditions for peace. Certainly, there can be no peace without meeting these conditions.

Syria, along with all Arabs, is yearning for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would allow regional states to develop their economic and developmental resources and provide prosperity and well-being to their peoples. Such a peace cannot be built while the Israeli threat is still standing, while the Israeli aggression continues, and while the Israeli expansionism drags out as a daily fact and a criminal practice. Peace runs counter to aggression, expansionism, and settlement activities. Aggression, expansionism, and settlement activities run counter to the principles of the world community.

Column Says U.S. To 'Confront' Israel To Save Peace

JN1303080394 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Muhammad 'Ali Buzah: "Saving the Peace Process"]

[Text] It was natural, after the atrocity and horror of the Ibrahimi Mosque crime, for the Washington bilaterals to stop and for the Arab delegations to suspend these talks in protest against the massacre and in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people.

It is neither logical nor acceptable for the negotiation process to remain at Israel's mercy and captive to its military madness and bloody crimes. The Arabs cannot negotiate from a position of commitment to the peace process and abidance by its terms of reference, which are based on respect for and execution of the resolutions of international legitimacy, while Israel is free of any restriction or commitment, carrying out savage massacres and attacks on defenseless Palestinians and Lebanese and dealing blows to peace and its chances of success.

Israel is practicing open organized terrorism, waging a war of annihilation and ruination, slaughtering, attacking, and burning Arab lands—all in the name of peace and under its banner. Yet, no one can object or utter a word of justice or protest in order that Israel's feelings are not hurt and the peace process is not jeopardized. On the other hand, the Arabs—and no one else—are expected to show flexibility, exercise self-restraint, and endure blows and strikes in order to maintain "the acquired" momentum for the continuation of the peace process. It is as if the Arabs are the only side concerned about this process and it must therefore pay the price by rewarding Israel, making concessions that entrench its usurpation of Arab lands and rights, and submitting to Israel's wishes and hegemony.

This rather strange and ridiculous Western paradox can be seen clearly if we were to reverse the situation and place Israel in the Arabs' position. We could see Israel receiving the blows and being subjected to daily air raids and bombing with the most up to date weapons of mass destruction. We could replace the massacres in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Juniyah with a massacre in a Jewish synagogue—even if Jewish deaths were only one tenth of either of the two massacres—where the perpetrator was a lone Arab "lunatic." What if there were events similar to the types that Israel carried out when it burned al-Aqsa Mosque and carried out the massacres of "Rotschilion," Sabra and Shatila, Qibyah, Dayr Yasin, Hebron, and Zuq Mikhail. Just imagine what would have happened!

Certainly, Western and American reactions would not have been in the form of such bashful condemnations and denunciations, which mean nothing and do nothing to console the bereaved. The whole world would have been turned against the Arabs. They would have been castigated and branded with all forms of medieval terrorism and barbarism. Moreover, the nations of the world would have rushed to Israel's assistance and used all their expertise to obtain sanctions and use all kinds of pressure against the Arabs. In fact, the entire Arab world, from the ocean to the Gulf, would not have been enough for Israel's aggression, reprisals, and revenge for its soldier and settler victims.

No doubt, the ugliness and atrocity of the Hebron crime has changed many concepts, making it difficult to continue with or return to the bilaterals as if nothing has happened. Thus, it has become incumbent on the international community and the U.S. sponsor to punish the aggressor and to firmly confront Israel's aggressiveness and curb its open lust for murder, blood, and massacres.

Saving the peace process and the stumbling talks necessitates exerting all forms of pressure in order to force Israel to submit to the resolutions and conventions of international legitimacy, to respect human rights, to remove the settlements, to disarm the settlers, who are a mine field in the way of peace, and to compel its rulers to acknowledge Arab lands and full rights without delay.

Hebron Massacre Continues To Threaten Peace

JN1103082994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing the UN Security Council's deliberations on the Hebron massacre, AL-BA'TH writes in its "With the Events" column:

Awaiting a UN Security Council resolution and following world demand for an Israeli withdrawal and the

implementation of the Geneva Conventions on the protection of civilians in time of war, the threats to peace, posed by the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, have not gone away. Nor will the massacre lose its influence on the credibility of the UN Security Council, which is still holding consultations as if the massacre were less significant than Lockerbie or less vicious than the reasons that prompted UN troops to land in more than one capital of the post-Cold War world.

Column Criticizes Strobe Talbott's Stand on Israel

JN1503061794 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 1 Mar 94 p 9

["Barbs" column by Hanan Hamad: "Talbott's Repentance"]

[Text] Strobe Talbott has made up his mind, and decided to be both American and Israeli at the same time so he will not lose the opportunity to become the U.S. assistant secretary of state, and shortly replace Warren Christopher. He did so because he learned his lesson, and realized that swimming against the tide of the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Congress could put a spoke through his wheels and relegate him to the fate suffered by Admiral Inman, who paid a price for not allowing Israel to have access to Washington's military secrets 13 years ago. Because of this, Inman was compelled to ask that his nomination for the U.S. defense secretary position be withdrawn. Similarly, acting against the wishes of the Jewish lobby could also relegate Talbott to the fate of nominated Attorney General Janet Reno, who, all of a sudden, turned in the eyes of the U.S. press from a clever, trustworthy, and capable lady into a weak, vain, careless, and indifferent woman because she failed to recommend that Jewish spy Pollard be released or show a measure of mercy toward him.

Talbott has chosen to disavow a host of ideas he upheld in press articles published 13 years ago. In these articles, he condemned the forcible seizure of territories, and deemed necessary halting the domination of the Israeli civilian establishment by the Israeli military establishment. His rationale was that this would not only influence the future of Israel, but also turn it into a liability overburdening U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East and the world at large.

While being grilled by the Zionist lobby in the Congress during his confirmation hearings, Talbott showed wisdom. He made a turnabout, contending that most of the articles critical of Israel that he has written were published a long time ago, and that age has rendered him "wiser" than he was then. He added: I have always believed that U.S.-Israeli ties are unshakable. That my feelings regarding the strategic importance of Israel have changed is a certainty. He was not contented with disavowing his old ideas. He went further by saying that he has always believed that a strong Israel serves the interests of the United States, and that the latter should not apply any form of pressure on a country to which it is bound by special ties. He did not forget to pledge to refrain from any activities related to Israel once his nomination is confirmed.

It should be recalled that the campaign against Talbott was not designed to prevent him from taking the post. Otherwise, he would not have taken it in the first place. It was only a slap on the wrist, reminding him that he will remain under close watch throughout his tenure at the U.S. State Department.

Given all this, one would say that the executive director of AIPAC [the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] put it right when he said that the Clinton administration was in his pocket, "even before it was formed." In light of all this, do we have the right to wonder as to the reasons for the procrastination over the passage of a UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre, although there is a strong international consensus condemning this heinous massacre?

India

Minister Urges Pakistan To Keep 'Open Mind' on Talks

BK1203123294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi says that Kashmir issue can be resolved if Islamabad has an open mind on bilateral dialogue. In an interview to AIR correspondent Sebastian Roberts in the Spotlight Program last night, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said bilateral discussion is the only way to solve the problem, but Islamabad cannot expect that India should concede all its demands. He made it clear that New Delhi will do everything possible for the resumption of bilateral discussions.

Replying to a question, Mr. Salman Khurshid said the withdrawal of Pakistan's resolution in Geneva was unconditional and there is no question of its postponement to the next session of the UN Human Rights Commission. The minister said there is no confusion, as the chairman himself made this clear at the Geneva meeting.

G-15 Summit Scheduled for 28-30 Mar

BK1103162294 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1517 GMT 11 Mar 94

["Official spokesman's statement dated 11.3.94"]

[Text] The resumed fourth summit of the G-15 will take place in New Delhi from March 28-30, 1994. There is agreement that for this summit, as it is a resumed summit, the rules of the quorum (2/3rds) shall not apply. It is expected that a number of these states will participate at the level of the heads of state/government, judging from the responses received. We should, therefore, be assured of a good attendance at the summit level. The preparatory meetings of the personal representatives and of the ministers shall be held on March 25 and 26 respectively. This resumed summit is expected to include discussions on issues relating to the future course of the G-15 in a fast-changing world.

Commentary Condemns Pakistani Diplomacy on Kashmir

BK1403155694 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Commentary by Dev Prakash]

[Text] In violation of the spirit of bilateralism, good-neighborliness and the Simla Agreement, Pakistan has been mounting an assault on India at the international forums on the so-called violation of human rights in J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] and Punjab. Pakistan has been pampered by the uncalled-for statements based on half-truth by President Clinton and other officials of the USA. Suffering from innate sense of political insecurity pretending to rule with the help of ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], Ms. Bhutto seems to have lost all [word indistinct] bearing and composure. [sentence as heard] She is suffering from the illusion that she can annex Kashmir, it being a Muslim-majority border state, or by championing the cause of Muslims in Kashmir she can seek leadership of the Islamic world. She has not only forgotten that millions of people in her own country are deprived of fundamental freedom and basic human rights, but also that she is losing support all over the world by deporting terrorism to India and other neighboring countries.

To expose Pakistan's false propaganda against India on human rights violation, India as of late allowed nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and envoys of various countries to see for themselves the condition in J and K. This has helped India in enhancing its credibility at the international forums. Innocent people are being butchered by Pakistan-trained extremists in the valley. Thousands of foreign mercenaries, especially Afghans, are attacking Indian security forces before mingling with masses at crowded places to avoid retaliation. And if in retaliation any civilian is killed in cross-fire, Indian forces are blamed for violating human rights.

Delhi-based ambassadors and high commissioners of 10 Western and Islamic countries visited J and K last week and met leaders of Hurriet Conference at the residence of their leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who was there with their leaders like Maulvi Ansari, Qazi Abdullah, Professor Ghani and Javed Ahmad. The envoy's team also met among others acting president of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]; human rights commission officials; and [Kashmir] Governor, General, retired, K.V. Krishna Rao. These diplomats from Bulgaria, Hungary, Nigeria, Senegal, Turkey, Indonesia, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Canada have met people holding all shades of opinion and have realized the role played by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The reaction proves the success of the center's federal government's new policy to open up Kashmir and invite the envoys to visit it.

The separatists would not have to adjust [as heard] to the fact that the other side of the story would also get international exposure. Only last month, ambassadors of Belgium, Greece and Germany had visited Kashmir to assess the situation for themselves. India has also invited the member countries of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] to send their envoys to the state. It has permitted the International Committee of the Red Cross to send a team to the state and is currently negotiating with Amnesty International too which is keen in visiting the valley. Earlier, U.S. secretary of state [title as heard], Ms. Robin [Raphel], had paid a visit on her own to the valley. The misunderstanding and falsehood spread by the Pakistani lobby is gradually being cleared up and there is now a greater appreciation of the Indian position that it is the victim of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

On the basis of Vienna Declaration, the UN Human Rights Commission on 4 March adopted a resolution condemning terrorism and calling upon the international community to fight the menace at the national, regional, and international levels. It also expressed concern at the gross violation of human rights by terrorist groups by saying that it cannot be justified under any circumstances. It is a big blow to Pakistan which is spreading fundamentalism in various countries.

In Kashmir, Pakistan has tried to create religious cleavages and divide. It has resulted in the ethnic cleansing and large-scale displacement of people. Efforts are being made to change the demographic profile of the Kashmir Valley. Coming to Pakistan's own record of human rights, the latest reports of Asia Watch and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan are eye-openers as they have accused the Pakistani Government of severe abuse of human rights of minorities and women in particular.

'Top' Kashmiri Muslim Militant Arrested

BK1203150794 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Report by Surinder Oberoi]

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 12 (AFP)—Javed Mir, the president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and most-wanted Kashmiri Moslem militant, was arrested here Saturday [12 March], witnesses and JKLF sources said.

Mir, 30, the former commander-in-chief of the guerrilla wing of the Moslem separatist group, was arrested along with another man when the car in which they were travelling was stopped by border guards, the witnesses said.

The pair were pulled out of the car and whisked away by the Indian paramilitary troops, they said. The other man, whose identity was not immediately known, was later released.

JKLF sources here confirmed the arrest of the JKLF president but there was no immediate word from the Indian authorities.

The stocky and bearded Mir was one of the four founders of the Moslem separatist rebellion which began in India's only Moslem-majority state in 1989 and his arrest is seen as a major setback to the movement.

Of the other three architects of the armed struggle against Indian rule, two are dead and the third is in prison. Mir, who worked for the state waterworks department before picking up a gun, carried a reward of 50,000 rupees (1,666 dollars) on his head and topped the list of Kashmiri Moslem militants wanted by the Indian authorities.

A native of Sringar, Mir has been accused by the Indian authorities of singlehandedly carrying out several deadly attacks against Indian troops deployed in the northern state.

The outlawed JKLF is the second most powerful Moslem separatist organization in Kashmir after the Hizbul Mujahedeen, which favors a merger of the state with Pakistan.

Unlike the Hizbul and most other groups, the JKLF seeks independence for the Himalayan territory.

Mir is the third top leader of the JKLF to be arrested in the past fortnight and his arrest comes just a day after he made a surprise appearance at the main mosque in Srinagar to deliver a speech from the pulpit.

Last week, Mir was among a group of Kashmiri Moslem leaders who met here with a team of 10 New Delhi-based diplomats who toured the strife-torn state.

More than 8,000 people have died in Moslem-separatist related violence in Kashmir since 1989.

India, which holds the southern two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan, which controls the northern third, of arming and training the militants waging the fight against India rule.

Pakistan denies the charge but provides diplomatic support to a campaign which it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

'Foreign Mercenaries' Reportedly Killed in Kashmir

BK1203153794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Direct involvement of Pakistani nationals and Afghan mojahedin into Kashmir militancy and taking over command of terrorist leadership to step up subversive activities in Kashmir Valley have been established with the arrest of several foreign mercenaries and nationals of Pakistan. This came to light recently when an advertisement in a local Urdu daily of Srinagar gave the list of foreign mercenaries belonging to its outfit killed in Kashmir in encounters with the security forces. According to the newspaper, of the list of 35 such mercenaries, at least 27 were Pakistanis, three from Afghanistan, two from Saudi Arabia, and one each from Bahrain and Algeria.

The Border Security Force [BSF] today found 10 bags of foreign currency worth crores of rupees from the Regal area in Samba Sector of Jammu region. A BSF spokesman told PTI the currency notes of countries like Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and India were sealed in bags and left at different places in the area. The spokesman said this is one of the major successes of the BSF in its drive against international smugglers operating between India and Pakistan via Jammu border.

Iran

Paper Criticizes Saudi Stance on Hebron Incident

NC1303182794 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques or Israel's Deputy?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: The al-Khalil [Hebron] debacle, its repercussions and fallout, have turned into a revealing incident on the Palestinian scene. In a defensive reaction in the face of the fury and indignation of the Islamic world, the Zionist regime has announced that it is ready to pay reparations to the victims of the al-Khalil catastrophe.

However, the custodian of the two holy mosques has, in an unexpected move, accepted the responsibility of paying reparations on behalf of Israel and has even sanctioned the amount.

It is not clear what Saudi Arabia's role has been in the massacre of the fasting worshipers in the shrine of the Prophet Abraham—peace be upon him—that it has even surpassed Israel in payment of reparations and has even gone a step further and said that it is ready to do so on behalf of Israel.

Amid all this, one must not ignore the role of Washington. Right from the outset, Clinton and his associates tried their best to cover up the catastrophe and to call on the Arab side participating in the negotiations with Israel to be indifferent to it and to continue their talks, even in the current circumstances.

Even though 'Arafat stooped to immense degradation and lowliness and gave a positive response to this request from Washington, the other Arab countries suspended the peace process.

Thus, the question arises: What is the motive behind Saudi Arabia's nauseating attitude in intervening in the al-Khalil incident? Has this been the Saudi stance right from the outset? Is Riyadh under pressure from the United States and Israel to display such generosity? Do the Saudis consider themselves accomplices to Israel's crime that they are seeking to absolve themselves by proposing to pay reparations?

These and scores of other questions arise from this nauseating Saudi attitude and each indicates ambiguities in this major catastrophe. Thus, facts and figures indicate that the al-Khalil tragedy is far deeper than can be imagined and, in fact, is the "common weak spot" of the United States, Israel, and the al-Sa'uds.

Is this a new test for gauging how despicable the Arab reactionaries are? What were and are the objectives of Washington and the Zionists in continuing such actions? These are questions that, once answered, will yield other information and strong clues that will reveal that the objective was to degrade the Arabs and that this was not an accidental or unexpected incident.

Why is Saudi Arabia's concern greater than that of Israel and the United States? Why is it making pledges instead of Israel? The fact is that Israel is seeking to put the revolutionary front of Palestinian forces in a defensive position in every possible way. The al-Khalil massacre on Friday was an action with many motives that was carried out to intimidate the Muslims who do not leave the mosques empty even in the early hours of Ramadan. These actions by Israel were carried out with the al-Sa'uds paying the expenses.

Saudi Arabia's offer to pay reparations to the victims of Israeli atrocities will encourage the Zionists to embark on greater carnage of the oppressed Palestinians, and the stance of the custodian of the two holy mosques will make him appear to be the defender of Israel before the Muslims. This indicates that instead of taking the side of the Palestinians and the victims of the disaster, the custodian of the two holy mosques has taken the side of the criminals and the Zionist usurpers.

'Arafat has adopted the same stance and does not even have anything to say. He acquiesces to everything proposed by the United States and Israel with his eyes and ears closed. Prior to this incident, he did not have any respect in the eyes of the Palestinian nation and the revolutionary forces, but the al-Khalil catastrophe has dealt such an irrevocable blow to his prestige that it is unlikely that he will ever recover.

The contemptible reaction by 'Arafat on the al-Khalil tragedy proved that not only is he not the spokesman of the Palestinians, he is not even a Palestinian. This is because he has tried to declare the case of this crime closed and to ignore it.

The subtle point that needs to be noted with regard to this incident is that all the criminals and those who compromised have been disgraced and have lost all their credibility before the honorable Palestinian nation and the Islamic world.

Experience has once again proved that there is no solution but the annihilation of the usurpist Israel and the complete removal of this cancerous tumor from the center of the oil-rich region of the Islamic world. Those should be condemned even more than Israel who claim to be friends of the Palestinian nation but are, in fact, accomplices in Israel's atrocities. This is the issue that needs to be understood and that increases the responsibility of all of us.

INRC: Regime Strikes Kurds in North Iraq

NC1503081594 Paris AFP in English 2239 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Nicosia, March 14 (AFP)—Iranian forces launched missiles against Kurdish border villages in

northern Iraq causing damage but no casualties, Iranian opposition forces said on Monday.

The Iranian National Resistance Council (INRC) said in a statement that the homes in Iraq of families connected to the Iraq-based Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) were destroyed in the attack on Friday.

However the report could not been confirmed by independent sources.

The KDP, which is the main Kurdish opposition to the Tehran regime has bases in Kurd areas in northern Iraq, many of them near the border with Iran.

Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the INRC and leader of the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], the main armed opposition to Tehran based in Iraq, denounced what the press statement termed a "criminal and terrorist attack".

He called on the UN Security Council to take measures urgently "to prevent the slaughter of the Iranian people and of the population of Kurdistan".

The INRC was founded in 1981 and brings together the People's Mojahedin and other closely-related Iranian opposition groups.

U.S. Policy of 'Dual Containment' Examined

NC1303175594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Mar 94 p 2 of supplement

[Unattributed commentary: "The Strategy of Dual Containment"]

[Text] Clinton and the Democratic Administration have assessed and approved a policy of dual containment toward Iran and Iraq that is based on a series of restrictions and pressures. Even though there is no uniformity between Iran and Iraq, it appears that the Clinton administration has been forced to adopt such a policy to extricate itself from its decisionmaking impasse.

Speaking in favor of this policy, Clinton's adviser for Middle Eastern affairs, Martin Indyk, who is considered the formulator of the policy of dual containment and restriction, says: In the past our policy was to give one of the two countries, that is Iran and Iraq, greater preference over the other. We are now in a situation where we should learn a lesson from the past and should study and adopt a suitable strategic stance on the Persian Gulf. Reliance on the strength and capabilities of one of the two countries to restrict the other and to maintain a balance of power has proved to be an erroneous policy.

Today, such an equilibrium can be satisfactory and in conformity with U.S. national interests if it restrains both the countries.

Martin Indyk believes that the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the reduction of the political and military strength of Iran in the eight-year war with Iraq, and the direct presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf have created conditions that allow the United States to bring about a balance without Iran or Iraq having any direct intervention in the region.

In his criticism of the policy of dual containment, U.S. political expert Graham Fowler has said that the aforementioned policy will not be beneficial. The United States tends to greatly exaggerate the dangers from Iran and the current U.S. policy needs to be reviewed and reappraised.

Fowler says: At present we are confronted with an Islamic Republic in the Middle East, but in the future there will be more such republics and we cannot make any innovations in our policy that we cannot continue in the future. Our (U.S.) current policy is very shortsighted.

According to Fowler, the formulation of a balanced policy in which there is a collection of friends and enemies is not a difficult task, but the balance of power in the aftermath of the Cold War needs assessment, study, and thought within the new framework. The United States should formulate its strategy in a manner in which the Persian Gulf countries can resolve their security issues without much dependence on that country and U.S. interests can be safeguarded.

Fowler says that Iran and Iraq have policies that are different from those of the United States, and they are also different from one another in relation to their respective situations. Iraq is a country with unchanging policies, which have not evolved completely, and is being administered by a ruthless individual. However, Iran is a country undergoing change and freedom and abundance is evident. Therefore, it would be fallacious for the United States to adopt a uniform policy for both countries.

Velayati on Peaceful Resolution to Gulf Islands

LD1403153394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 March 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an interview with the Arabic weekly AL-WASAT and daily AL-SHARQ, based in Qatar, released simultaneously yesterday, has once again stressed Tehran's desire to resolve the misunderstanding over the three Iranian islands in the Gulf.

This is not for the first time that the Islamic Republic of Iran has spoken of its inclination for talks with the officials of the UAE [United Arab Emirates], its neighbor in the south of the Persian Gulf region. As the history of the case shows, since the postponement of talks between Tehran and the UAE concerning the dispute over Abu Musa island, which were scheduled to be pursued last September simultaneous with the Tehran

visit of the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Iran has welcomed any move that may remove the ambiguities existing in this regard.

Therefore, in the opinion of political observers, the Iranian foreign minister's invitation to the UAE officials to travel to Tehran and resumption of bilateral talks on the disputed matters in fact is rated as the reiteration of Tehran's postures vis-a-vis regional issues. The move is also viewed as Iran's firm determination to preserve stability and to bolster security in the region.

It is, however, indisputable that from the viewpoint of Tehran, the rift over the disputed islands is resolvable through direct contacts, and that acceptable results can be obtained through holding bilateral talks. Despite this, it appears that the subject of dispute between Iran and the UAE at certain junctures has been affected by the infusion [as heard] and doubt caused by Western political circles, thus being led to a direction repugnant to the recognized international principles and reciprocal good neighborliness among regional states. This trend has not only failed to help resolve the matter in the past, but with the assertion of controversial subject the slowing of the pace of talks between these two countries and finally their severance.

At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the fact that tension in the region is not in the interest of anyone, has constantly sought that regional states, by duly discerning the existing realities and conditions at greater depth, consider ways for resolving their issues on a regional basis. In such case the neighboring states are expected to amicably settle any dispute that may exist between Iran and the UAE. In this regard, Iran thinks the renewed visits by the officials of the two countries and the resumption of bilateral talks as the most logical solution for both sides. In particular, it appears at present that in view of the general understanding which governs Iran's cooperation with the Persian Gulf littoral states, attainment of a peaceful solution to the dispute with the UAE is not something problematic and remote from expectations.

Commentary Views Rabin's Visit to U.S.

NC1503060694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Washington today, Monday, on an official visit to the United States, during which he will hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, focusing primarily on the resumption of the Middle East peace talks and ways of ending the standoff between the Zionist entity and the PLO.

The Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington comes on the heels of the Zionist government's decision yesterday to outlaw the activities of the racist, extremist Kakh and Kahana Hay groups.

Political observers view Rabin's reported agreement to allow nonmilitary international observers in the occupied territories merely as a cosmetic measure to remedy the current crisis in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Meanwhile the UN Security Council continues its discussions on a prospective resolution condemning the two-week-old Zionist criminal massacre of Palestinians in Hebron. Indications show that the United States is seeking a resolution that will not adversely affect the peace process and, at the same time, refrain from accusing or condemning the Zionist entity to the extent it deserves.

It was clear from the start that Washington and Tel Aviv were trying hard to suggest that the Hebron crime was an act by an individual act to relieve Tel Aviv of responsibility for it.

Although the U.S. President showed some sensitivity about the slaughter of Palestinians in Hebron and condemned the crime, he still believes that the Arab-Israeli peace process is a much more important issue. According to political experts, his insistence on resuming the Arab and Palestinian talks with Israel stems from the widespread anxiety that opposition to this bargaining is growing throughout the region.

In light of the Zionist entity's character, this question becomes necessary: Will resuming the peace process remedy the Palestinian security problem in the occupied territories?

Judging by the Zionist entity's acts, its settlement-building policy, and its arming of Jewish immigrants, the answer cannot be yes. This is particularly true because these inhuman activities enjoy blatant U.S. support.

Uzbekistan To Open Embassy in Tehran in Apr

LD1403144894 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 14, IRNA—Uzbekistan is to open its embassy in Tehran early in April, Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Murad Khakimov told Iran's ambassador Mohammad-Musa Hashemi Golpayegani in Tashkent Monday. Khakimov also named Parviz Aliyev as Uzbekistan's temporary charge d'affaires to Tehran, and said Aliyev would be in Tehran to open the embassy.

The two officials discussed promotion of mutual relations, establishment of a direct air link between Tehran and Tashkent and setting up of a joint economic commission.

Minister on Russia's 'Decisive Role' in Balkans

LD1403162794 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Vienna, March 14, IRNA—Iran respects the decisions and wishes of the people as well as those of an independent Bosnia-Herzegovinan [B-H] Government,

says Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Euro-American affairs.

Welcoming the decreasing trend of bloodshed in the Balkans, Vaezi in an interview with Iran [as received] here Monday expressed hope for a peaceful solution to the B-H crisis and called on the international community for assistance.

According to Vaezi, the Balkan crisis has reached a point where most countries want to see an end to the conflict.

He also noted that the Russians could play a decisive role aimed at ending the B-H conflict.

Vaezi, on a tour of European countries, held talks on Sunday with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic who is here for the Muslim-Croatian federation talks.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also said that during his talks with Silajdzic, the Bosnian prime minister had thanked Iran for its humanitarian aid to the people of B-H, and expressed hope that the Serbians would also join the federation negotiations.

Commentary on Changing Russian Role in Tajikistan

NC1403140594 Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Mar 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "In Quest of a New Role"]

[Text] It is over 15 months since a virtual coup was staged and Russian puppets took over in the Muslim-inhabited Republic of Tajikistan. For months the Persian-speaking Tajik people witnessed the catastrophic crimes perpetrated by the Russian forces and antipopular government of Uzbekistan [as published] in the country.

In this period, tens of thousands of Muslim men, women, youth, and children, have been dragged into blood and dust and the call to prayer has been snuffed out in most parts of the country. Theological schools have been closed down and most of the intelligentsia, writers, clerics, and university staff members have been martyred or arrested. Hundreds of thousands of people have been rendered homeless in the debilitating winter and are wandering in mountains and wildernesses. Most of the people are being shot with a hail of bullets before the eyes of their families merely for belonging to a certain tribe or district and the cities of Tajikistan have become the tramping ground for murderers and ruffians who enjoy Russian support.

Even though the Western mass media has boycotted all news of events in Tajikistan in a coordinated measure, some reports squeeze through the cracks and tell of the depth of savagery and brutality of the former communists and supporters of Russia. There is no doubt that the Russian Government has had the main role in the events in Tajikistan in the past year.

The people of Tajikistan will not forget Russia's obstructionism in preventing fuel and foodstuffs from reaching Dushanbe during the brief period that a popular government was in power in Tajikistan. The Tajiks are well aware that the puppet regime—which right from the outset has brought nothing for the people but poverty, hunger, misfortune, killing, and plunder—cannot survive even for a day without Russian support.

Following the UN's announcement of the 16 March date for talks between the leaders of national Islamic groups of Tajikistan with the ruling regime and the Russian Government, Russia is seeking to wrest the initiative and to direct the talks toward its own longterm interests.

It is being said that the Russian first deputy foreign minister has been in Iran for a few days and has had talks with the leaders of some Islamic national Tajik groups. Reports of these meetings were carried in some foreign media and in some Moscow publications. However, the officials of our Foreign Ministry have apparently not deemed it necessary to disseminate the news of these talks inside Iran as well! The Russian first deputy foreign minister has made immense efforts to convince the Tajik leaders to accept Moscow as the venue for the talks but they seem to have expressed a preference for Tehran or Islamabad.

The Russians, who have played the main part in creating the present situation in Tajikistan, are now seeking to assume a new role of a mediator between the Tajik Government and opposition while retaining the role of big brother. The latest reports indicate that the Tajik group leaders have agreed that the first round of talks should begin on 16 March in Moscow.

Our Tajik brothers and sisters should maintain as strong a stance in the talks as they displayed during their rightful struggle and should not succumb to the blackmail and whipping up of any kind of atmosphere. Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not forget the oppressed Muslims of Tajikistan in these difficult days and will—as has been stressed repeatedly by the leader of the Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—support their just aspirations to attain freedom and independence.

Daily Views Outcome of Kazakh Elections

LD1403094494 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Monday suggested that an argumentative but active parliament will be more advantageous for Kazakhstan than a passive and static one. Commenting on the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan, the daily said in its editorial that official election results published last Thursday indicate that 23 out of 177 of the elected parliamentarians belong to political parties which do not fully support President Nursultan Nazarbayev's political ideology.

"It is too early to judge Kazakhstan's election results, but apparently one of the major elements which has gained access to the legislature is made up of 60 independent representatives." It said that Nazarbayev's Popular Union Party has sent 20 members to the parliament.

Turning to the dilemma the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union are faced the daily said, "while they are afraid that relaxing social and political restrictions may endanger their political stability, their memories of decades of dictatorship and political suppression compels them to at least flirt with the idea of democracy." It further added that Kazakhstan is more sensitive to this dilemma than the rest of the newly independent republics.

The daily stressed that western powers attached special importance to Kazakhstan because of being the fourth largest atomic power in the world and because of its unique geo-political situation, being located between the three great regional powers of China, Russia and India.

Stressing that Russia is not the only country which keeps a close eye on Kazakhstan's affairs, due to the fact that Russians form the largest minority in Kazakhstan, the daily concluded by saying that all other regional countries have also an interest in Kazakhstan's actions.

Tehran's Intervention on Kashmir Issue Criticized

NC1503054594 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 14 (AFP)—A radical Iranian daily on Monday criticised the government for pressuring Pakistan into withdrawing a UN resolution condemning India's human rights record in Kashmir.

"Given India's black record in Kashmir, is it possible to absolve New Delhi of the savage killing of men, women and children?" asked Jomhuri-e Eslami, close to Islamic hardliners. Had the intervention been in the "long-term interest of a Moslem nation and the liberation movements in Kashmir?"

The daily urged the foreign ministry to explain the logic behind the intervention to the Kashmiri people in order to "reassure them that Iran has made no changes in its position."

Islamabad dropped the resolution to be put before the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva at the last minute Wednesday after pressure from Iran, China and other countries.

The initial draft resolution proposed that the commission express "its grave concern at the gross and consistent violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir."

On Thursday, a Moslem rebel group in Kashmir charged the Iranian stand on the disputed state had been an about-turn.

More than 8,500 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when Moslem militants stepped up a bloody campaign for succession.

Majles, Guardian Council Amend Budget

LD1503104294 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) here Monday discussed points in the next year budget bill referred to by the Council of Guardians as incorrect and made amendments in order to receive the Council's final approval.

The Council of Guardians had found faults with the bill concerning articles 52th and 53 of the Constitution. It had also referred to some of the notes in the bill as ambiguous and against Islamic law. According to the 53th article of the Constitution the whole money the government gains is concentrated in the state treasury and all payments are performed on the basis of the approved credits and according to the law.

Article 52 says that the country's annual budget should be proposed by the government as stipulated by the law and should be submitted to the Majlis for deliberations and approval. Any change in the figures should be according to the law as well.

After the Majlis completed debates over the next year budget bill in its open session Wednesday, the bill was sent to the Council of Guardians for final approval. The Council, after some study, returned the bill to the Majlis to correct the faults.

The Majlis did some amendments to the bill in its Saturday session but the council regarded the amendments as insufficient and retured the bill to the Majlis for the second time.

Budget Approved

LD1503104894 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—The Council of Guardians here Tuesday approved the next year budget bill as not being contradictory with the Islamic principles and the Iranian Constitution. The Council's public relations office said that the council had studied the bill in several extra meetings.

The Majlis made the amendments to the points which the Council referred to as incorrect twice. The Council of Guardians in its Tuesday morning session announced its final approval with the next year budget bill, the office added.

Nateq-Nuri Holds News Conference

LD1503111094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles, held a news conference this morning attended by domestic and foreign correspondents. During this news conference the Majles speaker referred to particular features of the coming year's [beginning 21 March] budget bill, saying: By allocating a greater subsidy to essential goods, the vulnerable strata will be protected better. Our foreign currency commitments will be reduced, greater attention will be paid to deprived areas, villages, the scientific, cultural and defense sectors. Income and expenditure will become more realistic.

In reply to a question asked by a correspondent on the comments made by a U.S. official about holding talks with Iran, Nateq-Nuri stressed: America's performance has always been contradictory and so far this performance has not shown any indication of that country's good intentions that can be trusted.

On the main obstacles on the path of improving ties with Egypt, he termed the Egyptian Government as the biggest obstacle in this field. He added: The Egyptian Government cannot see the people's Islam-seeking morale.

Comments on U.S., Egypt

LD1503114394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At his news conference today Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri replied to a correspondent's question about remarks made recently by a U.S. official on talks with Iran. Nateq-Nuri stressed: America's performance has always been in contradiction with such remarks, and thus far this performance has not been in a manner to demonstrate that country's good intention, and which can be trusted. He stressed: As long as America maintains its hegemonistic and aggressive nature, we will continue our struggle.

On biased western propaganda alleging that Iran is striving to build nuclear weapons, the head of the legislative branch said: All international organizations and forums, particularly the International Atomic Energy Agency which has inspected our country's installations, have declared that there is no evidence to show that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. We use our installations to generate power.

About the main obstacles along the path of improving ties with Egypt, Nateq-Nuri replied to the correspondent's question by describing the Egyptian Government as the biggest obstacle along the path of upgrading these relations. Referring to the Egyptian Government's opposition to the Islam-seeking and Islam-supporting wave in that country, the Majles speaker added: The Egyptian Government cannot see the people's Islam-seeking mentality and blames Iran for provocation.

On Iran's relations with other Asian countries, particularly China and India, the Majles speaker emphasized: We wish to establish ties and unity with all other countries, except Israel and the United States, and we believe this unity will serve the interests of us all.

New Governor General Presented for Ilam Province

LD1403131794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Besharati, at the administrative council session of Ilam Province last night, presented 'Ali Akbar Sha'bani Fard-Jahromi as the new governor general of Ilam. [passage omitted]

Abadan Airport Resumes Flights To Dubayy

LD1403112594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The first flight abroad from Abadan's international airport took off this morning. After 13 years of interruption the airport resumed its international flights as the first plane left Abadan for Dubayy. There are two weekly return flights by the Aseman [Sky] airways to Dubayy on Mondays and Fridays, carrying 80 passengers in each flight.

Two return flights from Tehran to Abadan are also added to the [Aseman] domestic flights. These flights are also scheduled for Mondays and Fridays so as to assist the passengers in Abadan. This brings the total number of Aseman airways return flights from Tehran to Abadan to three flights per week. [passage omitted]

Official Gives Statistics on Steel Exports

LD1403145694 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iran exported over dlrs. 310 million worth of steel within the past 11 months, said an official of National Iranian Steel Company here Monday. Musa Aqa'i Lankarani, the company's plan and project deputy, told IRNA that one million tons of steel products had also been exported over the current year. Pointing out that Iranian steel was highly demanded by world market for being produced of best raw materials, Lankarani remarked that China, Thailand, Phillipine and Taiwan were among the purchasers of the Iranian steel.

Iran would also export its steel to the Persian Gulf Arab states in the near future, he continued. He further noted that the plan for the development of steel industry in

Iran was under serious study, saying that Iran was planning to increase the capacity of its existing steel units.

According to Lankarani, two steel plants with the annual capacity of 350,000 and 550,000 tons each would be established in the northeastern province of Khorasan and northwestern province of Azarbaijan in future. On privatization policies, the deputy commented that the trend had begun since two years ago and that so far more than 10 units had been transferred to the private sector.

Esfahan-Yazd Gas Pipeline Project Completed

LD1303181894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The project of laying 318 km of gas pipelines from Esfahan to Yazd has been completed. According to a report from our correspondent, this pipeline comprises two separate sections, which start from Kuhpayeh, and after crossing the regions of Na'in, Haqda, Ardakan, Meybod, Ashk-e Zar, and Zarch reaches the city of Yazd.

The Housing Development of the Oppressed and the War Disabled Foundation of the Islamic revolution completed this project under the supervision of the Iranian National Gas Company at the cost of 8 billion rials and 20 million dollars in hard currency.

Pakistan

Leghari Applauds 'Internationalizing' Kashmir Issue

BK1403094494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] The president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said the Kashmir resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission has greatly helped in internationalizing the issue and in molding the international opinion in support of the Kashmiris' cause. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said the resolution on violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir was moved by Pakistan at an international forum after a long time and it helped in highlighting the Kashmir issue. He was sure that its results would be positive in future. The president said the Kashmir freedom struggle has been going on since long, which the people of the occupied state are waging against Indian oppression and occupation [sentence as heard]. He said Pakistan is extending all the political, moral, and diplomatic support to them.

In reply to a question, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said it will be his effort and endeavor that on all matters which pertain to Pakistan's security interests, national interests, and other vital interests, including Kashmir, there must be a bipartisan approach. He said in the interest of the Kashmiri struggle, there should be a consensus on the Kashmir policy. He said that he has tried in the past and will do so in future to create better coordination between the government and the opposition. To a question, he said as the president of Pakistan, all political parties are to equal to him.

Official Refutes Indian Claims on Kasmir Resolution

BK1203085094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan has clarified that Pakistan has not withdrawn the resolution on Kashmir tabled at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he refuted the Indian claim that the resolution has been withdrawn. The resolution was presented, but no voting was held on it. However, it is still there as a document. Regarding the visit of Muslim ambassadors, he said Pakistan had a clear commitment from the Indian Government in which a visit by Muslim ambassadors to Kashmir was agreed upon as a part of the understanding for not proceeding with a vote on the resolution. Therefore, the Indian claim is incorrect in every respect. Shaharyar Khan said that one of the two main objectives envisaged by Pakistan by presenting the resolution at an UN agency was to stop the oppression and violence against the people of Kashmir and violation of their human rights. The other was to draw the world attention to the Kashmir issue for the first time in 30 years.

The foreign secretary said that it is already clear that India is adopting a more transparent method in dealing with the Kashmir situation as a result of the international pressure. The group of International Committee for Red Cross, Amnesty International, and the ambassadors based in Delhi has been invited to visit Kashmir, and now the world community will strongly react to Indian Government's atrocities and violence against the Kashmiri people. Moreover, the world public opinion is now focused on India and the foreign office of every country considers the treatment of the Kashmiri people as an important issue of the international agenda.

Minister Comments on Indian Statement, Opposition

BK1203073494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal, has said Kashmir will be liberated from the cruel clutches of the Indian occupation forces during the tenure of the present government. Talking to a gathering in Kamalia today, the minister said the people's government has internationalized the Kashmir issue and tabled the resolution at two international forums. If India will not honor its words, Pakistan will agitate the issue again at international forums with more vigor and force. Commenting on the press statement of Indian authorities in which they contradicted their earlier statement about the visit of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] ambassadors to the held

valley, the minister said Pakistan deferred voting on the resolution at Geneva at the request and assurance of Iran which should now take up this issue with India.

Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal regretted that the opposition is ignoring the national interests by criticizing the government on vitally important national issues like Kashmir. He said despite the opposition's disinformation cell activities and propaganda, the present government would complete its five-year term and continue to serve the masses. He said the People's Party government will implement a series of development projects to improve the socioeconomic status of farmers and bring the backward rural areas at par with the developed ones.

Editorial Criticizes Suspension of U.S. Aid

BK1503104094 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 13 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Deprivation of U.S. Aid to Pakistan"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress Foreign Affairs Committee has decided not to grant assistance to Pakistan until 1995. Detailing the American policy, Ms. Robin Raphel, assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, said that of the $330 million in assistance sought by the U.S. Government from the Congress for the assistance program in South Asia, $112 million is earmarked for Bangladesh, $155 million for India, $28 million for Nepal, and $35 million for Sri Lanka. No fund has been allocated to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

That the dreadful civil war in Afghanistan is posing a problem to providing assistance to that country is understandable to a certain extent. But Pakistan is being subjected to this biased treatment by the United States for the sole reason that it is not prepared to roll back its nuclear program. Now the United States is exerting pressure to roll back the program rather than halting or freezing it. This American tendency has been construed by India as an appreciation for the production of its nuclear weapons. After noting that the United States exempts India from all such activities and after discerning the American designs toward Pakistan, now there exists no scope for optimism. The United States also does not want a developing Muslim country to attain capability in sophisticated nuclear technology, and if this occurs the U.S. wants to deprive it by tormenting it through various sanctions. The announcement to grant maximum assistance to India despite its gross human rights violations and the manufacture of nuclear weapons as well as the plan to keep Pakistan out of the assistance program until 1995 warrants us to revise our domestic and foreign policies and set fresh priorities. The government also should clearly understand that the United States will not be content with this and will take steps to cripple Pakistan economically and to further torment it by joining hands with its Western allies. Therefore, in view of this situation, the government should think about taking steps to make the entire nation demonstrate total harmony and perfect coordination to safeguard its interests and protect its independence, sovereignty, and resources. This is possible only through total solidarity among the people, and in a broader sense, through full coordination of thought between the government and the opposition to deal with the situation because it is not a matter concerning any particular political party or the government, but it concerns the entire country and the people.

Editorial Claims Nation 'Retains Diplomatic Initiative'

BK1203110894 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "A Successful Move"]

[Text] Although voting on Pakistan's resolution on human rights violations in held Kashmir tabled before the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) in Geneva has been deferred during its current session, Pakistan has achieved the basic objective underlying the move. Bowing to world pressure, India pledged to open up the Kashmir valley to diplomats of Islamic countries, so vehemently refused in the past, and requested the UNHRC to appeal to Pakistan not to press the resolution. In the meantime, the Iranian permanent envoy in the UNHRC declared that his country would continue to exert pressure on India to alleviate the sufferings of the people of held Kashmir and improve the human rights situation there. On his appeal, supported by 15 other countries including China, Pakistan agreed to defer voting on its resolution for one year.

Following tabling of the resolution at Geneva by Pakistan for censuring India for its violations of human rights in Kashmir the scenario kept hanging as the days progressed. There were two postponements on the vote on Pakistan's resolution and it became obvious that many of the 53 members of the UNHRC would abstain during the vote. That would not have been desirable. By deferring the vote on its resolution Pakistan has thereby gained time to persuade the abstaining countries to review their decision. The Latin American countries, in particular, had indicated that they wanted a little more time to fully grasp the various aspects of the Kashmir problem. On the urging of friendly countries Pakistan did not press for a vote, but nevertheless it has accomplished what it set out to do. By tabling the resolution at UNHRC and actively lobbying for it Pakistan has fully succeeded in highlighting the Kashmir dispute and focusing attention of the international community on the miserable human right situation prevailing in Indian occupied Kashmir. It is because of the intense diplomatic pressure Pakistan put on India that Delhi recently arranged visits by two batches of foreign diplomats to Kashmir and announced permission for a team of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to visit it. Also notable is the fact that since the beginning of the current session of UNHRC at which Pakistan tabled its resolution, there has been a drastic reduction in the killings in

occupied Kashmir. As Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali put it, the said resolution is very much alive and can be put up at other forums. Thus while on the one hand Pakistan has succeeded in putting India on the defensive on the human right issue in held Kashmir, on the other, it retains the diplomatic initiative in the matter.

Withdrawal of Kashmir Rights Resolution Criticized

BK1203065494 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 11 Mar 94 P 4

[Editorial: "Withdrawing the Resolution on Kashmir—Repeating the Blunder"]

[Text] The Pakistan Government has decided to withdraw the resolution against human rights violations by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. The resolution was to be presented at the UN Human Rights Commission. Intensive debate on the matter was continuing for the last few days and voting was scheduled on 9 March. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry on 9 March evening that China and Iran had told Pakistan not to press for the adoption of the resolution or to withdraw it. Both of them are Pakistan's friends and their request cannot be ignored.

By withdrawing the resolution from the UN Human Rights Commission, the Government of Pakistan repeated the same blunder it committed when it withdrew the resolution on the same topic from the UN General Assembly in December last year. It had then evoked a strong reaction not only inside the country, but also among the people of Azad Kashmir, occupied Kashmir and Kashmiris throughout the world.

In justifying the withdrawal of the resolution from the UN Human Rights Commission, the foreign minister has said that this cannot be construed to mean Pakistan's failure. Because 44 of the 53 members of the commission had decided to abstain from voting, and there would have been no significance if the resolution had been adopted by a vote of only eight members excluding the commission president.

The foreign minister's logic is beyond the comprehension of the Pakistani people. The people are justified in asking the foreign minister and the prime minister why the Pakistani Foreign Ministry could not deduce that 44 members would abstain from voting and thus make a resolution adopted in such manner meaningless. The Foreign Office was so unaware that it did not understand the "importance" of the global perspective of the resolution and it failed to anticipate that a large number of commission members would not vote on the resolution. If it was aware, then why did it keep assuring the people of Pakistan that "the Pakistani resolution will be adopted with a heavy majority" and that India would be globally condemned, boosting the cause of the freedom struggle in Kashmir?

The country's important and patriotic circles will also find it very hard to agree with the foreign minister's argument that the countries which decided to abstain in the voting actually gave India an opportunity to improve the situation in occupied Kashmir. We would like to remind the foreign minister that when Pakistan withdrew the resolution against India from the UN General Assembly, it was then said that the friendly countries which pressured for the resolution's withdrawal felt that India would hold talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute. But the fate of that talk is well- known to the people of Pakistan as well as the leaders of the present government. It is on record that the Foreign Office and the rulers have both been regretting it after they realized that India had requested for talks only to buy time. The question is, will India really improve the situation in occupied Kashmir now that the resolution has been withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Commission. Will India agree to allow world agencies to freely visit occupied Kashmir, to assess the situation there, and to withdraw its forces from occupied Kashmir? These are the questions even a naive person would answer in the negative. But why did the veteran officials of our Foreign Office fail to understand them?

The foreign minister has claimed that the practical aspect of the resolution was to force India to allow international missions to visit occupied Kashmir. But, India has already allowed a delegation of ambassadors into occupied Kashmir. Perhaps the foreign minister did not notice the news about the delegation carried by the international media during the last two days. Pakistani newspapers and radio and television reports have also noted that the delegation was not allowed to move freely. On the contrary, the people who tried to meet the delegation were baton-charged and fired upon.

KHABRAIN has reported the other day that Pakistan's decision to amend the resolution made it [word indistinct]. Through an amendment to the resolution on 8 March, Pakistan has omitted the provision that a UN Human Rights Commission mission be sent to occupied Kashmir to investigate the human rights situation and submit a report to the commission. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the National Assembly's Kashmir Committee, also criticized the amendment saying that "the amendment in the resolution has vindicated my apprehensions." He had also convened a meeting of the Kashmir Committee on 20 March to discuss the matter. It remains to be seen how the committee reacts at the meeting to the Pakistani decision to withdraw the resolution itself.

The present government has prompted harsh criticism and confrontation by withdrawing the resolution. We fear the opposition will react strongly to the Pakistani Government's decision. The decision will also affect the Kashmir struggle negatively and Kashmiris will be gripped by a feeling of frustration. The people and Kashmiri circles will not accept the justification presented by the government for its decision.